Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-94-172 *6 September 1994*

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Arab-Israeli Talks

Israel To Transfer Funds Promised to Palestinians

TA0209115494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 2 Sep 94

[Text] Finance Minister Avraham Shohat says Israel will transfer to the Palestinians the moneys it pledged to contribute in the Paris agreement. Shohat met this morning at his office in Jerusalem with the head of the Treasury in the Palestinian Authority, Muhammad al-Nashashibi. After the meeting the two men refused to specify how much financial aid is at stake. Finance Minister Shohat said al-Nashashibi had requested guidance on how to collect value added tax. The PA [Palestinian Authority] official also presented the Israeli finance minister with an invitation from Chairman Yasir 'Arafat to visit Gaza.

Donor Aid Release Agreed Upon

TA0409113394 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 4 Sep 94, p 1

[Report by Hillel Kuttler and Jon Immanuel]

[Text] Israel, the Palestinians, and donor countries on Friday [2 September] tentatively agreed on a plan to release interim assistance to the Palestinian Authority, ahead of decisions to be taken in Paris this week.

The American-drafted plan called on the Palestinians to establish a tax-collecting mechanism within six months.

Meanwhile, they are to begin collecting taxes to cover expenditures outside Gaza and Jericho in the four other fields in which they are to take over authority (health, welfare, tourism, and taxation), as they have done in education.

In each of the next six months, the donor countries will provide installments totaling $30-$40 million to help the Palestinian Authority cover budget gaps in those spheres.

Both Israel and the Palestinians will have to provide the donors with monthly reports on progress in establishing the new system, Foreign Ministry Director-General Uri Savir said.

"We're close to an agreement. We have to bring it home for approval, and the Palestinians have to as well. And then we'll likely sign it in Paris," Savir told reporters at the conclusion of meetings last week with US and World Bank officials on the matter.

Both tax collection and monthly reporting have been resisted so far by the Palestinian Authority.

The donor countries are due to meet in Paris on September 8 for three days to respond to Palestinian requests for funds to administer the self-rule areas.

Savir and Maj. Gen. Dani Rothschild told reporters that Israel will assist the Palestinians in setting up a tax collection system.

Chief Palestinian delegate Nabil Sha'th admitted at the meeting that his side had erred in refusing Israeli assistance with record-keeping in the Gaza-Jericho transition and requested that contracts with the Israeli firms Shaam and Malam be reinstated, Rothschild added.

On matters relating specifically to the Gaza-Jericho self-rule areas, the World Bank now estimated it will provide the Palestinian Authority with up to $150 million for administrative costs there, Savir said.

The PA [Palestinian Authority] will have to establish a tax collection system for Gaza and Jericho so the donors gain confidence that an accounting mechanism is in place, thus finally freeing the $2.4 billion pledged last October. Only $30 million have reached the PA thus far from individual countries, due to international dissatisfaction with Palestinian commitments to transparent accounting methods.

On another matter, the sides agreed that Norway, Finland, Turkey, Canada, Australia and two as-yet-unnamed European countries will constitute a future temporary 400-man international presence in the territories. Such a presence would materialize upon the calling of elections for a Palestinian governing council.

The Palestinian Authority in Gaza approved a tentative budget yesterday, but ministers would not reveal how much it would be ahead of the Paris conference.

PLO Economics Minister Ahmad Quray' [Abu-'Ala'] said he could not reveal it because a lot depended on what happened at this week's Paris conference. "We will know after the conference what the budget will be," he said.

Israel and the PA are to proffer a joint plan to the conference which will combine a mix of donor assistance, Israeli funds, and Palestinian taxes for financing the PA for the next six months until it sets up its own tax collecting mechanism.

The "early empowerment" plan's estimated six-month budget for the five spheres of civil administration to be run by Palestinians outside Gaza and Jericho comes to $54.8m., but that is a small part of total expenses of the Palestinian Authority.

PLO Finance Minister Muhammad al-Nashashibi said a Palestinian delegation would also ask for financial assistance from the UN conference in population scheduled to open in Cairo tomorrow, Reuters reported.

Israel Asks Jordan for Information on Missing Soldiers

JN0609093494 Amman AKHIR KHABAR in Arabic 5-6 Sep 94 p 2

[Excerpt] Sources close to the Jordanian negotiating delegation said Israel has officially asked Jordan to

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provide it with information on Israeli soldiers who have been missing since al-Karamah Battle [in 1968].

These sources said the head of the Israeli delegation handed a memorandum to Dr. Fayiz al-Tarawinah, head of the Jordanian delegation, asking for clarifications on the Israeli soldiers still missing from battles.

These sources said the memorandum asked for information on the fate of three or four soldiers who Israeli military sources believe were not killed, but were missing and are still in Jordan. According to the sources, al-Tarawinah denied having any information about Israeli soldiers missing from battles that took place in the border area in 1967 and in the early 1970's. However, it seems that Israel has contradictory evidence.

These sources add that Israel refuses to discuss the security issues listed on the agenda unless solutions or quick answers are provided to the subject of missing soldiers. This explains why no progress has been made on the subject of security so far. [passage omitted]

Islamic Affairs

Islamic Conference Urges Attendence at ICPD Meeting

NC0309163694 Paris AFP in English 1543 GMT 3 Sep 94

[Text] Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, Sept 3 (AFP)—The Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) on Saturday [3 September] urged member states to attend the UN World Population Conference [International Conference on Population and Development, ICPD] in Cairo to block any un-Islamic resolutions.

Hamid al-Ghabid, OIC secretary general, said in a statement here that "member states must be present at the conference and make Islamic positions count during debates."

"They must block the adoption of any document which goes against Islamic principles," he added.

He also condemned the conference's draft resolutions which have already drawn fire from Moslem leaders and the Vatican.

The draft action plan "promotes population control by abortion and free access to modern contraception," he charged.

"Population growth does not always constitute an obstacle to development everywhere," he said.

"Under-population is even the main handicap to development in some cases."

Four out of the 48 OIC members—Iraq, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia and Sudan—have announced they will boycott the Cairo conference, which opens on Monday and lasts until September 13.

But another member Iran, which has said it will attend, also urged Islamic countries on Saturday to take part in the forum to strengthen their position.

UN Chief: Fundamentalism 'Incompatible' With Tenets

AU0209173094 Paris AFP in English 1635 GMT 2 Sep 94

[Text] United Nations, Sept 2 (AFP)—Fundamentalist doctrine is "incompatible with the basic principles of the United Nations," UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali said Friday [2 September].

Asked in an interview with AFP about the situation in Algeria, where Islamic fundamentalists have waged a campaign of violent attacks against the government and more recently foreigners, Butrus-Ghali said the doctrine of the activists violates several basic tenets of the United Nations.

"Certainly, a fundamentalist doctrine is incompatible with the basic principles of the United Nations," he said.

"That applies to all groups choosing fundamentalism or Islamic fundamentalism. It is incompatible with the UN charter on human rights."

But the UN chief declined to comment specifically on Algeria, saying the United Nations has not been asked to consider any action by the government or other country.

Butrus-Ghali spoke just before leaving UN headquarters for his native Egypt, where he was to attend the UN population and development conference. He was scheduled to visit Pakistan, India, Japan and China after the conference.

Palestinian Affairs

Israeli Soldier Killed in Attack on Patrol

Islamic Jihad Claims Attack

JN0509084094 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0730 GMT 5 Sep 94

[Excerpt] An Israeli soldier was killed and two others were moderately wounded when an Israeli occupation patrol was attacked on the Rafah-Khan Yunus road, near the Qatif Bloc settlement, yesterday. Members of the occupation patrol returned fire. Following this, an Israeli occupation force carried out a widespread search at the incident site.

This morning, a statement issued by the Islamic Jihad Movement, was distributed in Gaza in which the movement claimed responsibility for firing on the military patrol. [passage omitted]

Attorney General Comments

TA0509180394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1600 GMT 5 Sep 94

[Text] Earlier this morning, one report on the attack on the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] last night said one of the

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soldiers was wounded by fire from Palestinian police. The attorney general for the Palestinian Authority, Khalid al-Qidrah, says that the Palestinian security forces are searching for the attackers who carried out last night's ambush at the Morag junction.

[Begin al-Qidrah recording] If we find any truth or evidences against him [the Palestinian suspect captured following the attack], that he participated in what happened yesterday and have any relationship with killing the Israeli and wounding the other two persons, of course we will arrest him and try him. The Palestinian forces are searching hardly about anyone who have any relationship with this action. We must punish anyone who deal against our security. [end recording]

Khalid al-Qidrah was speaking to reporter Yoni Ben-Menahem.

Police Commander, 'Arafat Comment

TA0509185794 Jerusalem New Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 5 Sep 94

[Text] Ghazi Jabali, the commander of the Gaza Strip police, reported this evening that the youth who was found wounded near Khan Yunus was involved in the attack on the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] last night, and that he will be put on trial when he recovers from his wounds.

Yasir 'Arafat declared today that the Palestinian police will conduct an intensive investigation in order to capture those responsible for the attack.

[Begin 'Arafat recording, in English] You know we are against it, and we are following these persons who are trying to act against the security of the whole area. I know that they had received their orders from some outside elements, far away of the Palestinian field and the Palestinian area. [end recording]

'Arafat Welcomes Pope's Statement on Official Ties

JN0309162894 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1515 GMT 3 Sep 94

[Text] His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat has welcomed Pope John Paul II's announcement on the establishment of official relations with the PLO, given that the PLO is the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative. His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat said that the PLO has always aspired to developing good relations with the Vatican, as they should be.

The pope this morning announced the Vatican's decision to establish official relations with the PLO, the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative.

'Minister' on Aid, Jordan Ties, PNC Session

JN0209165294 Paris AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI in Arabic 2 Sep 94 pp 26-27

[Interview with lawyer Furayh Abu-Middayn, "justice minister" in the Palestinian National Authority, by unidentified AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI correspondent, in Amman "a few days ago"]

[Excerpts] [AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI] You have come to Jordan to discuss many intricate Jordanian-Palestinian issues. The final statement, however, did not promise much and did not speak about solutions. What has happened?

[Abu-Middayn] There must be an intensive, frank dialogue. There must also be openness because dialogue cannot take place through the press. Direct dialogue is the shortest way.

[AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI] Are you referring to the tension that has engulfed your relations with Jordan in recent weeks?

[Abu-Middayn] I would like to assert that there is agreement on many points. There is disagreement on some other points. As you know, our relationship is very deep, longstanding, and largely interconnected. The current stage is a difficult one for the Palestinians, as well as for the Jordanians. I can honestly say that relations between the two sides should not depend on Israel. There should be direct Jordanian-Palestinian contacts. Israel should not be a link between the two of us. As for the final statement, it is clear. There is an attempt to calm the situation and clear the air.

[AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI] But the final statement did not include any decisions at all.

[Abu-Middayn] We must consult our leaders. I would like to say, however, that our relationship is one of destiny. The final statement does talk about monthly meetings of the various committees. There is continuing follow-up. We also agreed on the trilateral Jordanian-Israeli-Palestinian committee, which is a very important issue. [passage omitted]

[AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI] Press reports speak about the possibility of the return of the West Bank to Jordan. Some people are for this solution, and some others are against it. What do you have to say about this point in particular?

[Abu-Middayn] The final objective is the removal of occupation. The confederation is coming—no matter what other proposals are propagated. By the year 2000, matters will have become clear between Jordan and Palestine. Both parties are advocates of unity. As you see, daily affairs are linked between the two banks of the river and Gaza. Jordan is asked today to support us to make the self-rule experiment succeed. We also want Egypt and the other Arab countries to support us.

[AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI] So you have doubts regarding the success of this experiment?

[Abu-Middayn] Yes, there are doubts. The self-rule is still crawling, or is walking on one foot. It needs clear support, regardless of the negative aspects. Everything must be put on the table.

[AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI] But the World Bank and the donor nations are delaying the arrival of the necessary funds to start the projects.

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[Abu-Middayn] There are many question marks. There are efforts to exhaust the Palestinians. Believe me, even some medicine imports are not arriving. They are putting pressure on us in a manner that raises doubts and suspicions. They told us that money will come in large amounts once we sign. But, every day there are new obstacles and new demands. If the self-rule experiment collapses, then peace will collapse. The reason for collapse will be the economy and not politics. The empty stomach will make the people take to the streets. We made this point very clear to the Americans. Although Washington has asked all the European parties to act, all these foreign parties are dealing with us in a businesslike manner, and not by offering aid.

[AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI] It is as if you were begging.

[Abu-Middayn] The world should understand that we are not beggars. We are demanding our rights. The entire Jewish question was born in Europe, so it is not fair that we should pay the price for this question and tragedy. The Europeans are responsible for creating this issue and for the tragedy. Germany has been paying reparations for Israel up until now. Why don't the Palestinians get reparations? Even the United Nations Development Fund, which is an international organization, wants an 11 percent commission on an $11 million loan to clean up Gaza. President 'Arafat has telephoned UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali and asked that it be reduced to six percent. Why do they want to make business at the Palestinian people's expense? What has the United Nations offered us, save pieces of paper. The economic situation is the decisive element. The world must act.

[AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI] How?

[Abu-Middayn] We in Gaza alone need 50,000 job opportunities. The tragedy of the Palestinian people is that they themselves have built the Israeli settlements. The victim has built the institutions of its executioner. The reason is their livelihood. Some 23,000 workers go to work in Israel nowadays. This figure includes Gaza only. For your information, 90 percent of the Gaza Strip's economy depends on Israel. The West Bank is in a somewhat better shape, if we compare it with Gaza. We told the Europeans: Come over and create job opportunities in our country. Why do you insist on treating us as a developing country? We are not. We want the creation of job opportunities.

[AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI] There is heated debate regarding the convening of the Palestine National Council [PNC] in Gaza and the revocation of the PLO charter, which calls for the removal of Israel. What is your comment?

[Abu-Middayn] The PNC should not convene in return for nothing. Israel should revoke its annexation of Jerusalem in return for revoking the charter. Israel has agreed to negotiate on the basis of Resolution 242, that is, land for peace. Israel should recognize us as a state and revoke its annexation of Jerusalem. We must get something in return. [passage omitted]

[AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI] What about the dispute with Jordan over religious sovereignty over Jerusalem?

[Abu-Middayn] It is almost over.

[AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI] Will President 'Arafat visit Jordan soon?

[Abu-Middayn] When we return to Gaza and review the talks we held in Jordan, then President 'Arafat will certainly visit Jordan.

Hamas Leader Criticizes PLO Peace Process

AU0509110494 Hamburg DER SPIEGEL in German 5 Sep 94 p 145

[Interview with Ibrahim al-Yasuri, cofounder of Hamas by unidentified DER SPIEGEL reporter; place and date not given: "Turn Around, Yasir 'Arafat"]

[Text] [DER SPIEGEL] Why does Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] want to thwart the autonomy agreement between the PLO and Israel?

[Al-Yasuri] Because it confirms the existence of the State of Israel, which was founded with blood and terror and has made hundreds of thousands homeless.

[DER SPIEGEL] How can an organization that quotes Allah condemn the PLO's peace policy?

[Al-Yasuri] The goal desired by God is the liberation of all of Palestine. The autonomy is a self-deception. The Israelis remain the masters.

[DER SPIEGEL] Is 'Arafat a collaborator in your eyes?

[Al-Yasuri] I only know that the new Palestinian ID cards have the same code numbers as the old Israeli ID cards for Palestinians. I doubt that 'Arafat is still very popular. Some people claim that things were better under the Israelis.

[DER SPIEGEL] There would be no problems if Hamas were to administer the area?

[Al-Yasuri] Never. Over the years 'Arafat's team has embezzled millions which were entrusted to them. Now the gang is extorting taxes from the people, even though in Gaza one out of two able-bodied citizens does not have an income.

[DER SPIEGEL] Islamic extremists have killed Israelis in the autonomous territories. The Palestinian administration is committed to punishing attacks on Israelis....

[Al-Yasuri] ...'Arafat has arrested Hamas activists who have nothing to do with the attacks.

[DER SPIEGEL] Will war break out if the PLO collects the weapons of the religious warriors?

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[Al-Yasuri] Hamas fighters will not permit anyone to deprive them of their arms.

[DER SPIEGEL] Why does Hamas not participate in the elections which might take place by the end of this year?

[Al-Yasuri] The elections are taking place within the framework of the agreement, which we reject. Hamas and 'Arafat cannot sit in the same boat.

[DER SPIEGEL] And what happens if 'Arafat continues without Hamas?

[Al-Yasuri] Rather the other way round, because Hamas is supported by the majority of the Palestinians. Our policy is written by the Koran. I call on Yasir 'Arafat: Turn around and cancel the false treaties before it is too late.

'Arafat Appoints Bal'awi Chief of Security Forces

TA0409125594 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 4 Sep 94 p A1

[Report by Ze'ev Schiff]

[Text] Following recent conflicts between various Palestinian intelligence bodies, as expressed in several recent shooting incidents, Yasir 'Arafat appointed Hakam Bal'awi as head of the Palestinian intelligence and security services.

Amin al-Hindi, head of general intelligence—who until recently was slated to receive the post—will remain head of general intelligence. Bal'awi, however, will be put in charge of him.

Bal'awi, who was one of the PLO leaders in Tunis and who now lives in the Tulkarm area, will also be in charge of preventive intelligence (the internal security service) and will coordinate the operation of the presidential security unit. The two persons who have been in charge of preventive intelligence in the territories so far are Jibril al-Rujub, who from the Jericho area oversees the entire West Bank, and Muhammad Dahlan in the Gaza Strip.

While in Tunis, Bal'awi, 60, was in charge of internal affairs and in this capacity was also in charge of overall security. After the wiretapping in Abu-Mazin's [Mahmud 'Abbas] office was discovered tension erupted between Bal'awi and 'Arafat. At the time the PLO accused the Mosad of planting the bugs via a Palestinian agent, who was executed after admitting the charges.

Prior to Bal'awi's return to his village in the West Bank, 'Arafat took over treatment of the Palestinian Authority's internal affairs, while Bal'awi did not fulfill any role. Initially 'Arafat offered him the post of deputy interior minister in charge of internal services, but Bal'awi refused and demanded to be reinstated in his ministerial status. Now he will apparently receive his former status.

The appointment of a new boss to all the Palestinian intelligence and security services was hurried up as a result of the rivalry between several of these organizations, to the extent of fire exchanges. In Jericho, former members of Force-17 opened fire on Jibril al-Rujub's men. In Tulkarm there were fire exchanges between al-Rujub's people and members of the presidential security unit. In this incident one of al-Rujub's men was killed.

Palestinians in the West Bank—in the area under Israel's control—possess huge amount of weapons. Formerly these firearms were concealed, but now many people can be seen armed with revolvers and other types of weapons.

'Arafat expects Bal'awi to rein in the various groups before the rivalries deteriorate into major incidents. Those who are familiar with his leadership style, however, say these appointments are meant to serve his "divide and rule" policy. 'Arafat acted similarly in his economic appointments.

Tension is also reported in relations between 'Arafat and General Nasr Yusuf, head of the Palestinian forces in the Gaza Strip, in the wake of the latter's statements that the political echelon is preventing him from carrying out detentions among those responsible for the recent attacks against Israel. Yusuf is very popular among Palestinian officers and is considered a reliable and professional officer who is interested in imposing law and order in the Gaza Strip.

In reaction to Yusuf's recent statements, 'Arafat quickly took a series of steps to curtail his power. Among other things, he took away from him the responsibility for policemen's salaries. The conflict in this area started already before 'Arafat reached the Gaza Strip, when Gen. Yusuf paid the policemen several salaries at once in order to enable them the get organized in their new homes. At the time Yusuf was summoned to Tunis for clarifications.

'Arafat also curtailed Yusuf's ability to appoint or promote officers. The appointment of Bal'awi could also increase tension among the senior ranks of the PLO security forces. In any event, 'Arafat is likely to preserve his direct links with all his subordinates rather than doing this through Bal'awi or Gen. Yusuf.

Freed Prisoners Clash With Police in Jericho

NC0409113094 Paris AFP in English 1041 GMT 4 Sep 94

[Text] Jericho, West Bank, Sept 4 (AFP)—More than 200 released prisoners clashed with Palestinian police in Jericho and later burned tires and blocked a highway in protest over their conditions, officials and witnesses said Sunday [4 September]. The incidents took place Saturday morning and continued into the late evening.

At least 500 Palestinians have been released over the last four months from Israeli jails on condition they spend the rest of their term in the Palestinian autonomous area of Jericho.

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Many were convicted of killing fellow Palestinians suspected of collaborating with Israel.

Trouble erupted when the men marched from their living quarters on the outskirts of Jericho up to the main police station, Fawzi al-'Amarnah, a witness said.

When police fired shots in the air, fist-fights developed and two of the prisoners were slightly hurt, al-'Amarnah and other witnesses said.

The crowd dispersed, but regrouped late evening near the entrance to Jericho, burning tires and briefly blocking the highway which is used by joint Israeli-Palestinian security patrols.

Police and Israeli guards did not intervene.

Temporarily living in school buildings, the freed prisoners have been protesting the restrictions, and a delegation slipped out to Gaza City last week to meet PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat.

They were especially angered recently over orders to be transferred to other, unsuitable, living quarters, al-'Amarnah said.

He said Palestinian authorities refused to meet the men and had not covered their expenses for two weeks. The freed prisoners so far have no jobs but may be enrolled in the police force, officials have said.

But Jibril Rajjub, head of intelligence in Jericho, said the men were "already part of the security apparatus," and were being paid accordingly. However, they had no specific functions yet.

Rajjub said the prisoners demonstrated on Saturday to "show the world their voice and put pressure on Israel," to release them.

And, while acknowledging there had been a fight, he qualified it as a "quarrel among citizens, not with the security forces."

Twenty-One Islamic Jihad Activists Arrested

TA0609095694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 6 Sep 94

[Text] The Palestinian security services this morning arrested 21 Islamic Jihad activists in the Gaza Strip. Some of the people detained belong to the organization's political leadership, including Shaykh 'Abdallah (Shami'), the leader of the Islamic Jihad in the Gaza Strip. Palestinian sources told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that the arrests were made in the wake of the terror attack at the Morag junction for which Islamic Jihad assumed responsibility. The sources said that the wounded terrorist who was captured after the attack led the security personnel to the arrests.

'Suffering' Prompts Jihad To Cancel Strike

JN0509090294 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0730 GMT 5 Sep 94

[Text] In a telephone contact with the Voice of Palestine this morning, the Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine announced that it has canceled its strike on the sixth of every month due to the difficult economic suffering facing citizens and out of its concern to positively respond to the calls of Palestinian merchants, farmers, and industrialists.

Mahmud 'Abbas Fears 'Liquidation' by 'Arafat

JN0509093794 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic 5 Sep 94 p 1

[Text] AL-MAJD has learned that during a recent meeting in Tunis, Yasir 'Arafat and Faruq Qaddumi decided to postpone the convening of the Palestine National Council [PNC] and the amendment of the PLO Charter until further notice.

Well-informed sources said 'Arafat supported Qaddumi's views on the need to retain the cards of convening the PNC and amending the PLO Charter, and not to relinquish them in return for nothing, as the Israeli side wants.

These sources told AL-MAJD that Mahmud 'Abbas will be the first loser in the agreement between 'Arafat and Qaddumi. He is now afraid of physical liquidation if he returns to the occupied territories, due to the strong hostile competition with 'Arafat. Yasir 'Arafat believes Israel is trying to replace him with 'Abbas.

The sources added that Shim'on Peres' support for Mahmud 'Abbas—who is considered a Palestinian figure totally different from 'Arafat—contributed, to some extent, to reinforcing Abu-Mazin's [Mahmud 'Abbas] fears that he might be liquidated if he returns to the occupied territories and practices his duties there.

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Algeria

French Embassy Withdraws Visa Service

LD0309124494 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 3 Sep 94

[Text] The French Embassy has confirmed that its consulates in Algeria will no longer grant entry visas to Algerian nationals wishing to go to France, except for special cases. The embassy has indicated that those wishing to obtain visas will now have to send their applications to the international visa department based in Nantes, western France. The embassy added that the exact procedure would be defined at a later date. This decision comes in the wake of the assassination of five French employees a month ago. The consular services had already introduced a system of visa application by post following the assassination of a female consular employee last January.

FIS Leaders Meet With Officials in Lausanne

NC0409102894 Paris AFP in English 1002 GMT 4 Sep 94

(Text] Algiers, Sept 4 (AFP)—A delegation of Algerian politicians last week met leaders of the banned Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) in Switzerland, the group's representative in Sweden, Bachir Benzeguir, told the EL WATAN daily Sunday [4 September].

The Algiers delegation was led by Djamel Ould Abbes, the president of the Commission of Foreign Affairs in the transitional National Council, EL WATAN said.

Benzeguir, who said he attended the meeting, refused to name the other people present.

He also refused to say whether the delegation from Algiers had received an official mandate for the meeting.

"A delegation of representatives of FIS abroad, of which I was a part, had contacts in Lausanne (Switzerland) with sincere politicians," he said.

"The two delegations exchanged points of view and gave an analysis of the political, economic and social situation in the country."

"We asked them to see human rights were respected in Algeria, notably for political prisoners.

"The most important thing is that we agreed on the main points discussed: the supreme interest of Algeria, the integrity of the territory and above all respect for differences."

Government officials were unable Sunday to confirm whether or not the meeting had taken place.

The military-back Algerian Government and FIS last week started talks on a truce to allow the banned Islamic fundamentalist group to take part in wider political talks opened by the president Liamine Zeroual with opposition parties.

Algeria was plunged into near-civil war in 1992 when the military intervened to stop the second round of general elections FIS looked poised to win.

Thousands of civilians, fundamentalists and security officials have been killed in the more than two years of fighting.

New Round of Presidency-Party Talks Held

Hamas Leader Urges Dialogue

LD0209142894 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 2 Sep 94

[Text] The national political arena these days is witnessing a great revival and rapid, intensive contacts between the parties in the wake of 5 September, the date of the new round of national dialogue. A number of active political parties on the national arena have one common goal—guaranteeing the success of the dialogue. This group of parties believes this success can only be achieved if all the parties take part in the dialogue without exception, including the dissolved Islamic Salvation Front [FIS], for the sake of overcoming the crisis which Algeria is suffering, thereby giving the citizens a glimmer of hope.

In a statement to national radio, the leader of the Hamas [Islamic Society] Movement expressed the hope that the Socialist Forces Front, the FFS, will abandon its decision to boycott the national dialogue.

[Begin recording] [Hamas leader Mahfoud Nahnah] We continue to hope that our brothers in the FFS will join us around the dialogue table, because the FFS is a national party which has its roots and is widely represented throughout the country. It is therefore necessary that it should attend the dialogue and express its views with absolute clarity and frankness. The role of the FFS in this dialogue is to express, in anyway it likes, its ideas and suggestions. Trying to find a solution to the complicated and rotten situation, which is worsening every day, is a task which all those who are loyal are expected to tackle. So, what is the reason for the FFS' abstention and its hesitation? Why do they withdraw and boycott the dialogue?

[Unidentified correspondent] There are new indications and facts that have emerged before 5 September; there are reports that Cheik Abassi Madani has sent a letter, which states that the FIS leadership, or Abassi Madani, has accepted the principle of what is known as the constant principles of national dialogue, as announced by Liamine Zeroual, regarding respect for the Constitution, the republican regime, and the principle of the alternation of power. The news about the letter was published in AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT.

So, do you consider this as a positive development, which is a result of the dialogue, or is it something to do mainly with interactions within the Islamic Salvation

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Front, bearing in mind that Ali Belhaj sent another, different letter, to the head of state?

[Nahnah] Yes, since the FIS leadership has broken its silence. We have been calling for a long time—before getting to the stage where people became bloodthirsty and before the waste of lives, whether citizens or the authorities or intellectuals—for the necessity to open the door of dialogue. The dialogue was at the time that of the deaf, and even the silence of Abassi Madani during all this time is considered a dialogue of the deaf. If the report is true and the letter was in fact published and contained these ideas which you have put forward now, we consider that it is a positive step forward and gives a glimmer of hope on the horizon as far as the Algerian people is concerned. This is so, particularly if it has been established that respect for the constant principles of the nation, the Algerian people, and the Algerian state are matters which cannot be overlooked or abandoned in any way. The absence of authority and the state in this homeland means entering a stage of Afghanization, Lebanonization, or Rwandization, and of walking on the corpses of victims from the Islamic Algerian people. This is not acceptable to any patriot who shows care and concern for his country, or to a Muslim with integrity, or to a sincere political party which wants to put forward a political program so as to get the country from underdevelopment to development.

Thus, we consider that if the report about the letter is true....

[Correspondent, interrupting] Do you know anything about this subject?

[Nahnah] We do not want to usurp events and we are just a few days away from sitting around the dialogue table. There it will become clear whether the report about the letter is true or not. Thus, the matter is about a fundamental issue, which proves the necessity that a solution is only available through dialogue.

If the picture becomes clear to Cheikh Abassi Madani or Cheikh Ali Belhadj—may they be released—or to any other element absent from the dialogue, that the fraternal dialogue table between the various parties in the political class is the best means to get out of this crisis, then we consider it a positive step. [end recording]

FIS Leader Sends Letter to Zeroual

LD0309140594 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 3 Sep 94

[Text] The issue of the national dialogue is still attracting the attention of public opinion in the country and is generating statements and positions from the various political forces. The Algerian media today carried reports on a letter sent by Abassi Madani [Islamic Salvation Front, FIS, leader jailed in Blida prison] to the head of state, Mr. Liamine Zeroual. This letter follows optimistic statements made by the parties taking part in the dialogue. Over to Djamila Mezouad:

[Mezouad] The dialogue process, in its new phase which started on 21 August, is attracting the attention of public opinion in the country and the concern of the media and representatives of the political class. The new process of the dialogue has generated reactions that have been described as surprising. The latest of such reactions was a letter from Abassi Madani to the head of state. This letter has not been confirmed by official sources yet, but the fact that it has been widely reported by the media leaves the observers with no doubt about its veracity. The letter, which was published by the London-based AL-SHARQ AL-A AT on 1 September, included the principle of an acceptance of the conditions for participation in the dialogue that were announced by the head of state, Mr. Liamine Zeroual, namely the respect of the Constitution, the republican nature of the state, change of government, and respect of democracy.

It is worth mentioning that Algeria's constants, as defined by the head of state in his opening address at the first meeting between the presidency of the state and the parties taking part in the dialogue, are the Constitution, the republican system, Islam as the religion of Algerian state, the renunciation of violence as a means for political action, individual and collective liberties, the respect of human rights, the democracy within the framework of the respect of our national values, multiparty politics, and a change of government through the Algerian people's free choice.

This is not the first letter sent by the leadership of the banned FIS from prison. The head of state had already formally confirmed the existence of another letter which Ali Belhadj [FIS second-in-command] had sent him and a copy of which was handed to the leaders of the parties that took part in the dialogue. As regards the wishes of the presidency of the state and the parties that took part in the dialogue, the head of state spelled out in his opening address at the meeting held with the parties on 24 August, what is expected from the banned party in order for it to join the dialogue, as some parties wish and as the state also wishes.

It is premature to consider that Abassi Madani's letter represents a sufficient response to the framework and the constants that should govern the dialogue and which have been accepted by the parties that attended the last two meetings. However, the letter, in addition to the statements of the party leaders, justifies the feeling of optimism prior to the 5 September meeting where the issue of ensuring the success of the dialogue will be discussed, as Abdallah Djaballah [Ennahda leader] has said. Djaballah also stated the dialogue has made the first step on the right track.

For his part, [Mahfoud] Nahnah [leader of the Islamic Society Movement], expressed on several occasions his optimism in the future of the dialogue and stressed the need to involve, what he calls, the legitimate and historical leadership of the banned FIS, in the results which will come out of the current dialogue. It is known that the

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National Liberation Front [FLN] and the Front of Socialist Forces [FFS] share the views of the two aforementioned parties. The FLN regards the inclusion of the banned party as a condition for the success of the dialogue. The FFS believes, as its acting secretary general Said Khelil stated, that the political reality makes the inclusion of the banned party inevitable in order to avoid bloodshed. He added this should take place within the framework of a comprehensive solution.

According to the latest indications, contacts are continuing between the parties taking part in the dialogue and those that have boycotted it, especially the FFS which has not defined its position yet on a possible participation in the meeting due to be held on 5 September. As usual, Ait Ahmed's party is adopting the policy of the last minute reaction before announcing its position.

Presidency Issues Statement

LD0409223694 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 4 Sep 94

[Text] A statement has been issued by the State Presidency, explaining that the meeting with the Front of Social Forces [FFS] had the aim of clarifying to its representatives that there is nothing in the conditions, subject, and aim of the dialogue to justify the absence of their party.

During the talks the FFS representatives expressed their opposition to the principles defined as a framework for the dialogue, and stressed that this framework contains political preconditions and excludes economic problems from the debate.

After setting out their position, the FFS representatives announced that they respect the 1989 Constitution, but that it is unacceptable to their party, whose demands for the formation of a constitutional assembly are well known. They added that a declaration that Islam is the state religion would be considered to show bias.

The FFS representatives also stress that, confining plurality to the political sphere alone would exclude others, such as the cultural and linguistic spheres. The FFS delegation also raised up the problem of overstepping authority, and asked about the running of the institutions for the transitional period. They also spoke about their party's demands regarding national and international guarantees for agreement to be reached, even if a solution itself is found between Algerians alone.

In the view of the FFS, there is still a need for caution and it cannot commit its credibility without guarantees. During this meeting, the presidency representatives recalled the former meetings with the FFS, and said that they hope the FFS would allow for the existing circumstances to be removed so that an atmosphere for the trust required in order to conduct a constructive dialogue may prevail.

Regarding the various points raised by the FFS based on the understanding that it would be absent from the dialogue, the presidency representatives gave the following clarification:

With regard to the framework set for the dialogue in the principles declared by the head of state, these principles do not contain any political preconditions. It is natural that these principles commit all parties to respecting constitutional legitimacy, the principles and values contained in the Constitution, and the democratic option on which there is no going back. With regard to the area to be covered in the dialogue, the presidency representatives stressed that, with the exception of the international agreements concluded by the state, nothing is excluded from the debate.

Regarding the claims related to the occurrence of overstepping of authority, the presidency representatives recalled the head of state's statements within the framework of the current dialogue. On the institutions of the transitional stage and their joint running, the reply given was that this issue, like the other issues to be included in the dialogue, is open to discussion and there are no preconditions for it.

Regarding the national and international guarantees that the agreement to be reached among Algerians will be respected, the state presidency representatives stressed that there is nothing to prevent the FFS promoting this position.

During this clarification the state presidency representatives indicated that they do not see any essential objection to the participation of the FFS in the dialogue.

In conclusion, the FFS delegation stressed that the situation is still under study by the party leadership, and it was agreed that contacts should continue.

Talks Start Behind Closed Doors

LD0509113594 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1000 GMT 5 Sep 94

[Text] The third round of national dialogue between the Presidency and five political parties started this morning at the Presidency of the Republic. Like earlier rounds, this round is being held behind closed sessions. Here is our reporter Mahfoud Mannan:

[Mannan] The third round of national dialogue between the authorities and the opposition started this morning at the headquarters of the Presidency of the Republic. This round is being held behind closed doors and the same officials who took part in the two previous meetings are present today: Abdelhamid Mehri, 'Abdallah Djaballah, Kahled Bensmail, Mahfoud Nahnah, and Noureddine Boukrouh representing the opposition, while the authorities are represented at this meeting by President Liamine Zeroual, Mihoub Mihoubi, Mohamed Betchine, Youcef Khatib, and Ahmed Ouyahia, chief secretary to the presidency of the republic.

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This round is being held in an atmosphere of optimism and a spirit of responsibility due to the importance of this dialogue between the authorities and the opposition and to the eagerness of the two sides to look for solutions to Algeria's crisis and restore hope to Algerians.

Today's meeting is expected to discuss the letter sent by Abassi Madani to the head of state. Some media sources have reported on this letter which includes respect for the nation's principles and for the country's Constitution.

Contrary to recent reports in the national press regarding the possible participation in the dialogue of representatives from the dissolved Islamic Salvation Front, this dissolved political tendency is not present at today's meeting.

A source at the Presidency of the Republic said that in today' meeting the authorities and the opposition will try to create a suitable framework to involve the leaders of the dissolved party in future meetings.

Zeroual Says Contacts To Continue

LD0509165494 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 5 Sep 94

[Text] The third round of national dialogue between the authority and the opposition continued today at the Presidency of the Republic. The meeting was marked by the intervention of President Liamine Zeroual, who stressed that the presidency would continue its contacts with the invited political parties and those which are still absent from the dialogue table. More details from our correspondent Mahfoud Mennane.

[Mannane] As agreed at a meeting on 24 August between the authority and the opposition, a third meeting was held today at the Presidency between the head of state and the following parties: the FLN [National Liberation Front], the Algerian Renewal party, the Movement for Democracy in Algeria, Ennahda, and Hamas [Islamic Society Movement]. At this meeting, President Liamine Zeroual made a statement in which he said that the presence of the mentioned parties in this dialogue has enabled the two groups to assess the results of their previous meetings, and to hold consultations, which each party deems necessary to make it possible to move forward toward common objectives.

The head of state said: During my last meeting with you, I presented you with the clarifications and information you asked for to enable you to make a precise assessment of the situation faced by our country, and I presented to you also a draft agenda. He stressed the wish of the state and his own wish to see this dialogue bring together all those concerned in light of respect for the framework defined for it, so that this dialogue may have a real national dimension [passage indistinct].

Talks End, To Resume 20 Sep

LD0509200594 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 5 Sep 94

[Excerpt] [Announcer] [passage omitted] Our correspondent at the Presidency of the Republic, colleague Mahfoud Mennane, pointed out that today's meeting ended moments ago.

[Mennane] A short time ago the third round of the national dialogue between the authority and opposition ended. This meeting began this morning to discuss the subject of the participation of the parties that are absent and the contacts that the presidency made with them. During today's meeting President Liamine Zeroual made a statement that said that the presence of the five parties at this dialogue has allowed both sides to evaluate the results of the two previous meetings and conduct the consultations that each side deems necessary to enable it to make an appraisal and advance toward the common aims. The head of state said: I have presented to you during my recent meeting with you clarifications and information that you requested to enable you to make a precise appraisal of the situation that our country is facing. I have submitted to you too, a draft agenda of the dialogue.

The head of state reaffirmed during this meeting his own personal wish and that of the state that this dialogue should encompass all those concerned, under the auspices of respecting the framework that has been fixed for it so that this dialogue attains a real national dimension. In this connection, the head of state said that the Presidency of the state will continue its contacts with the invited parties, as well as with those that are still absent from the dialogue table. The national public opinion has seen the results of the contacts with the FFS [Socialist Forces Front], the RCD [Rally for Culture and Democracy], and the Ettahadi Movement. Efforts will be continued to make those absent parties join the dialogue table. The head of state renewed his determination that human rights will be respected and to prevent any form of violations.

Thus, the head of state added, I have proved to you the freedom guaranteed to you in using the media; the directive in this connection has been published so that any ambiguity in this connection can be removed. The parties should take the opportunity of using the media to actively and constructively participate in halting the violence. With regard to the transitional stage, everyone regarded it as being a necessary matter and all are being called upon to participate in its running in the widest form possible. The organization of elections will be the target of this transitional stage. All are invited to fix its duration.

With regard to the message that Abassi Madani sent to the head of state, and in which he expressed his readiness to participate in this dialogue on the basis of respecting the Constitution and the republican nature of the state and to discuss the authority, we have learned from official sources that this message has actually arrived

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with President Liamine Zeroual. The subject of Abassi Madani's message addressed to the head of state has been confirmed by Noureddine Boukrouh, who a short while ago left the meeting. He added that the sides in the dialogue had discussed the contents of the message.

[Announcer] The latest news says that the authority and the five political parties have agreed to hold a fourth meeting on 20 September, and that in the event of the emergence of new information the meeting will be brought forward to a date before 20 September.

Party Leaders View Outcome

LD0509225594 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 5 Sep 94

[Text] When they came out of their talks, TV correspondent Samiyah Aziz recorded the reactions of the leaders of the parties taking part in the national dialogue.

[Begin recording] [Noureddine Boukrouh, Algerian Renewal Party] We cannot say there was an outcome right away. However, after the third round and tens of hours of meetings, due to the seriousness of the crisis it is likely that the Algerian people do not imagine that the solution will come within a day or a week. One has to be patient. We are serious in our search for a solution. There are signs for optimism, however, we cannot say a final solution has emerged.

[Abdallah Djaballah, Ennahda Movement] We have insisted on the document with the 14 measures. The document issued by the reconciliation parties namely the National Liberation Front [FLN], Hamas [Islamic Society Movement], Movement for Democracy in Algeria, and Ennhada Islamic Movement. We demanded the prioritizing of those points and asked the government to present its own views on the subject. The head of state did present his views. However, the question is still subject to discussion.

[Abdelhamid Mehri, FLN] In our view, the crisis experienced by the country cannot be solved without the meeting of all effective political forces in the country. We stressed that sense and we are still at our position in that a dialogue of some without some will not solve any problem.

[Mahfoud Nahnah, Hamas] The essential question which we consider as an indication of the beginning of success is the message of [detained Islamic Salvaton Front leader] Dr. Abassi Madani [to the president] which could be considered one of the positive indicators on coming out of the crisis, particularly if an agreement between him and his brothers in jail is achieved on the foundation he has proposed. This we considered an excellent step and we hope that unanimity can be formed round it.

[Unidentified speaker, for Movement for Democracy in Algeria] We have registered the opposition of our party in that measures are needed to (?calm) the atmosphere of the dialogue. On the other hand we said we should take into consideration the proposals presented by Mr. Abassi Madani which are, in our view, a positive step toward solving the crisis in the country. [end recording]

Renewal Party Issues Statement

LD0509230194 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 5 Sep 94

[Excerpts] The Algerian Renewal Party, which has participated since the beginning in the national dialogue round, gathered its leadership and studied a collection of proposals and solutions for the crisis being experienced by Algeria. According to its statement we received today, the Renewal Party lays down three fundamental points: The halting of violence, the transitional stage, and the question of the election. What are the contents of these points?

The Algerian Renewal Party records the guarantees that the head of state has presented with regard to respecting the results of the dialogue. It also accepts the constants derived from the Constitution, as well as the two additional points related to the rejection of violence as a means for political action, as well as the respect for the undertakings signed by the Algerian state. After a consultation prepared by the leadership, the Algerian Renewal Party submits the following proposals:

In the sphere of halting violence: In order to halt violence this should be politically treated, whose aim is to put an end to its deep-rooted incentives and the necessity of direct participation by the dissolved FIS [Islamic Salvation Front]. Those who have resorted to violence generally depend on and mention two types of excuses. The first is that they were deprived of an election victory that they scored lawfully and legally. Second, the wish to establish the Islamic state: If the first excuse is undoubtedly founded, then the second excuse constitutes a [word indistinct] for the reconsideration of the current bases of the Algerian nation and state by an unacceptable means. The fact perhaps is that the fears aroused by this second point had led to the election process in January 1992, a matter that explains the authority's insistence and stress to the parties in the dialogue, or those that will join the dialogue, that they should openly accept the constants derived from the 1989 Constitution. The Algerian Renewal Party suggests that the two excuses should be separated and the demands connected to them.

In addition to that, and in view of the differences that had appeared among the political leaders who are imprisoned in Blida, and the messages that were sent by Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj, individually, in this connection assume a deep significance. Among the armed detachments the question of representation appears to be a problem that is on the discussion table. But, and in an effort to remove the obstacles confronting direct dialogue with the political officials of the FIS, all suitable circumstances for a meeting and the discussion

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of the affairs of those who are outside or inside prison, in Blida or anywhere else, who declare their wish to enter into dialogue, should be made available. The second step is manifested in the sitting of a qualified FIS delegation at the dialogue table. [passage omitted]

The organizing of elections: Through these elections the Algerian people will exercise their official rights stipulated in Articles Six, Seven, 10, and 11 of the 23 February 1989 Constitution. On its part, the Algerian Renewal Party is of the opinion that a return to the election process is possible through the following steps:

The organization of presidential elections six months after the end of the current dialogue; the organization of legislative elections six months after installing the head of state; the possibility of organizing a popular referendum; the organization of municipal elections six months after the referendum. In the event of the current dialogue reaching a solution before 1 November next, the timetable of the Algerian Renewal Party will be as follows:

May 1995: presidential elections

November 1995: legislative election

June 1996: the possibility of organizing a referendum

December 1996: municipal and wilayah elections.

Zeroual Reiterates Commitment

LD0509233994 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2300 GMT 5 Sep 94

[Text] The third round of national dialogue between the regime and five opposition parties ended yesterday [5 September] evening. The two sides agreed to meet again in a fourth round of national dialogue on 20 September.

Head of state Liamine Zeroual made a statement in which he recalled efforts to make the national dialogue successful. He reiterated his commitment to all of his promises with regard to human rights and strengthening the freedom of expression through the media.

The head of state also reiterated his invitation to the parties absent from the national dialogue and said that contacts with them would continue.

Presidency Spokesman Assesses Talks

LD0509234994 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 5 Sep 94

[Text] Mihoub Mihoubi, official spokesman of the Presidency, assessed the third round of the national dialogue in this statement to Samiya Aziz:

[Begin Mihoubi recording] During today's meeting we touched upon essential topics concerning the framework of the dialogue and also the parties concerned with the dialogue. The interventions were clear, frank, and detailed, and there was conviction of the need to involve all national political forces that support the country's interests and that adhere to legitimacy and seek to abide by the constitution and the laws of the republic.

This is the first observation. The second observation, or the second result of this dialogue, was the lifting of a great psychological barrier, so that dialogue has become a rule and a favorable tradition for dealing and interacting with our political issues.

First, regarding the messages: Indeed there were messages received by the head of state and also by the parties. I want to confirm that this is one of the results of this dialogue which is being held seriously and effectively and with good intentions from all parties. This could be considered one of the results of this dialogue which was characterized by good intentions of all parties.

Regarding your question about the issue of mediation, I want to say very simply that the Algerian state, or any other state in the world, does not need mediation when the issue is the establishment of any contact or any interaction with its sons or citizens, whether they are legal bodies or individuals. The state is competent to interact and deal with its nationals regardless of the circumstances, and it needs no mediation. [end recording]

Forty-Two 'Terrorists' Killed in 48 Hours

LD0309194094 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 3 Sep 94

[Excerpts] The security services today announced the killing of 41 terrorists over the past 48 hours in Omar Municipality in Bouira Province and Tazoult Municipality in Batna.

The largest security service operation took place at Djebel Boutekhma in Oum El Bouaghi, where 20 terrorists were killed and 17 arms were recovered.

The security services' statement points out that 4 members of the security service have lost their lives in this operation.

Other operations also took place at Ain Defla, Boumerdes, Constantine and the capital, Algiers. [passage omitted]

A third security services' statement announced the killing of a dangerous terrorist in Annaba who was active as a group leader in Laghouat and who carried out more than 40 assassination attempts and attacks on army barracks.

Boufarik Magistrate Killed By Gunmen in Chlef

LD0309124294 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 3 Sep 94

[Text] The security forces announced today Saturday that Khellafi Mohamed, a magistrate in Boufarik, was assassinated in Chlef yesterday evening. The same sources added that the killing was carried out by four gunmen at 2030 yesterday at the Olympic Estate, in Chlef, where the victim lived.

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Egypt

Sudanese Allegations of Hala'ib Attack Said 'Baseless'

NC0409082994 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0800 GMT 4 Sep 94

[Text] An official source has stated that Omdurman Radio's allegations that Egyptian forces have launched a surprise attack against Marsa al-Shallal in Hala'ib and kidnapped a Sudanese officer are baseless. The source explained: The fact is that an officer from the Sudanese security forces, accompanied by a number of his soldiers, tried to prevent Egyptian fishermen from fishing in the area. Faced with this provocation—which was accompanied by impolite words and an attempt by the officer to attack members of the Egyptian force—and in an effort to calm the situation and prevent it from getting worse, the commander of the Sudanese forces in the region was called in to talk to that officer, who, in the presence of his commander, apologized for what he had done. The matter ended at that point.

The official source added: It would seem, however, that the Sudanese authorities wanted to fabricate a new story to justify the local campaigns in Sudanese publications in an attempt to incite the Sudanese people. Apparently, they do not appreciate the efforts being made by fraternal Libyan Jamahiriyah.

Mubarak Receives U.S. Vice President Gore, Delegation

NC0609091494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0900 GMT 6 Sep 94

[Text] Cairo, 6 Sep (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received U.S. Vice President Al Gore and his delegation this morning.

The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, Dr. 'Atif 'Ubayd, minister of the public business sector and minister of state for administrative development and environmental affairs, Dr. Yusuf Butrus Ghali, minister of state at the Council of Ministers for international cooperation, Egyptian Ambassador in Washington Ahmad Mahir, and U.S. Ambassador in Cairo Edward Walker.

Economic Development Committee Formed

NC0609152394 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 6 Sep 94

[Text] Egypt and the United States have agreed to form a new joint committee for economic development. The committee will hold high-level contacts and consultations between the two governments concerning economic policy. The announcement came in a joint Egyptian-U.S. communique following today's talks between President Husni Mubarak and U.S. Vice President Albert Gore.

Paper Says Israel Refuses To Discuss Nuclear Weapons

NC0409072494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0610 GMT 4 Sep 94

[Text] Cairo, 4 Sep (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR says the Israeli Government under Yitzhaq Rabin refuses to enter into any negotiations to free the Middle East from weapons of mass destruction—a subject President Husni Mubarak raised a long time ago. The paper notes that Israel is the only country in the region that possesses such weapons.

In today's editorial, AL-AKHBAR cites Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres' justifications of this position—namely, that a comprehensive peace must be established in the region before Israel joins such negotiations.

Commenting on this, the paper expresses astonishment at Israel's insistence on achieving full peace and opening all Arab borders to it without Israel showing any intention of abandoning the weapons that Israel believes serve as a lever to get whatever it wants.

AL-AKHBAR calls Israel's attention to the fact that the superpowers themselves have started to reconsider their nuclear policies, to eliminate their nuclear weapons gradually, and to fight any attempt to use these weapons in terrorist operations of which those superpowers themselves may be the first victims.

The paper warns the leaders of the Jewish state against continued use of nuclear blackmail. This, it says, is playing with fire.

Mubarak Says ICPD Recommendations Not 'Binding'

NC0509052794 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 5 Sep 94

[Text] President Husni Mubarak has reiterated that development is the major issue that preoccupies officials in Egypt, who concentrate on providing a proper standard of living for citizens, maintaining stability, and supporting and facilitating investment.

He warned in an interview with the [London-based] AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT newspaper that overlooking development can bring about catastrophes due to the constant population increase and the high rate of unemployment.

President Mubarak explained that the recommendations to be discussed by the International Conference on Population and Development [ICPD] do not constitute binding resolutions or agreements. It is necessary to seize this opportunity to explain Islam's viewpoint on population issues and show its respect for mankind and the attention it gives to women and children, Mubarak said.

The president reiterated that it is impossible for any Islamic state, primarily Egypt, to consent to anything that runs counter to its principles and values. He called

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on Islamic states to present their viewpoints on the issues of population and development in a serious, rational dialogue and to seize the opportunity provided by the conference to present the true Islamic position on these issues, particularly because it is being held in an Arab, Muslim state like Egypt.

Ministry Declares State of Emergency for ICPD

NC0209173194 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 31 Aug 94 p 1

[Report by 'Abd-al-Rahim 'Ali]

[Text] The Interior Ministry has declared a maximum state of emergency preparatory to the convening of the International Conference on Population and Development [ICPD]. Certain sources have told AL-AHALI that political forces opposed to the conference have recently given financial assistance to the extremist Islamic Group leaders to draw up terrorist plans against the conference. The security service is investigating the involvement of personnel belonging to a banned religious group in the terrorist operations last week.

AL-AHALI learned that a high political figure received a report from the Interior Ministry asking it to warn some recognized religious leaders not to make any press statements that might incite unrest or be used by the terrorists as a pretext to implement their plan.

According to information received by AL-AHALI, an agreement has been concluded between Egypt and some countries participating in the conference allowing security squads to escort foreign delegations, particularly those of the United States, Britain, and France. The agreement stipulates that Egyptian security men will guard installations, roads, and conference halls.

It should be recalled that the Islamic Group Organization issued a statement declaring its intention to blow up the conference hall and to carry out terrorist operations against the participants.

Papers Discuss ICPD Opening, Urge End to Controversy

NC0509060994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2035 GMT 4 Sep 94

[Excerpts] Cairo, 4 Sep (MENA)—Egyptian newspaper for 5 September devote much attention to the UN International Conference on Population and Development [ICPD], which President Husni Mubarak will open that morning.

In their editorials, the newspapers describe the conference as an important event that will discuss the future of the world's nations in light of rapid international changes and the birth of the new world order.

AL-AHRAM voices hope that the political and media controversy over the ICPD's draft document will stop and that everyone will wait for the results of the debates conducted by the participating delegations. The paper lauds the Islamic Conference Organization's statement on the ICPD, noting that it demonstrated a profound sense of responsibility for the future and destiny of millions of Muslims regardless of their diverse sects and political differences.

AL-AHRAM urges the conferees to participate effectively and positively in the discussions so that the conference will adopt resolutions and recommendations responsive to our needs, beliefs, shari'ah, traditions, and social norms.

AL-AKHBAR notes that the ICPD is an international certificate of appreciation signed by the majority of the world's countries in recognition of Egypt's distinguished civilizing role that began millennia ago and which Egypt has consistently played even under the cruelest circumstances. [passage omitted]

AL-JUMHURIYAH points out that everyone agrees that attending the conference is better than turning down an invitation because participation provides an opportunity to correct certain concepts and emphasizes the role of civilized dialogue on an important issue that concerns all the world's residents. The paper says such a dialogue can pave the way for new UN-sponsored regional relations.

30 'Repentant Extremists' Released on Minister's Order

NC0309170394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1632 GMT 3 Sep 94

[Text] Cairo, 3 Sep (MENA)—Thirty extremist detainees who declared their repentance, returned to their senses, and decided to follow the sound teachings of Islam, were released today.

Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi issued an order to set them free on the strength of an evaluation carried out by state security officials.

This is the third group of repentant extremists released in 1994 in the wake of the interior minister's announcement that the Interior Ministry will release any detainee who proclaims his repentance, comes to his senses, and abandons the religious extremism of which Islam disapproves.

Security Forces Kill Three 'Terrorists,' Arrest 20

NC0209135694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1315 GMT 2 Sep 94

[Text] Cairo, 2 Sep (MENA)—Three terrorist elements were killed during a confrontation with the security forces in the city of Suhaj at dawn today. The three were among the terrorists who attacked the tourist bus in Gina Governorate last Friday, killing a Spanish child and wounding others.

The security forces in Suhaj arrested a number of terrorists who were plotting terrorist operations.

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According to preliminary reports, 20 of these elements have been arrested. They were in possession of ammunition, weapons, and documents proving their involvement in terrorist schemes. They also had a facsimile machine.

Ministry Issues Statement

NC0209154494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1430 GMT 2 Sep 94

[Excerpts] Cairo, 2 Sep (MENA)—A responsible source at the Ministry of Interior has stated that the State Security detectives dealt a strong blow to the remnants of the fugitive elements of black terrorism early this morning. The detectives stormed a number of terrorist hideouts in the Governorate of Suhaj and hit three active terrorists who died instantly in a shoot out with the security forces.

A statement by the Interior Ministry today says that the security agencies arrested 21 extremists who had plotted terrorist operations; they succeeded in identifying the liaison officer of that organization. A facsimile machine was connected to that liaison officer's home telephone. It was used for sending out the organization's statements, the last of which was issued in the wake of the assault against a tourist bus in Naj' Hammadi, Qina Governorate, last Friday [26 August]. In that statement, the organization claimed responsibility for the attack. [passage omitted]

The Interior Ministry statement said that the shoot out resulted in the death of terrorist Ashraf 'Ali Salim 'Ali, a student at the Arts Faculty in Suhaj. He was a fugitive terrorist leader in Upper Egypt who acted as an assistant to terrorist Tal'at Yasin Hammam, who was killed in Cairo recently. [passage omitted]

The second terrorist killed today was Mansur Muhammad Sa'id Ahmad, a student at the Social Service Institute who was from al-Hayda., Qina. He was wanted in two cases and was involved in the assault against the tourist bus in Qina last week.

The third terrorist was Sutuhi 'Ali Sutuhi, a student at the Suhaj Mechanical School. He acted as liaison between the leaders and fugitive terrorist elements.

It turned out that the aforementioned terrorist took part in transporting weapons and ammunition to the organization's members in their hideout, where they were killed, and was involved in the attack against the tourist bus.

The source added that a search of the hideout turned up two automatic rifles, a 9-mm Hulwan pistol, and a quantity of live ammunition. [passage omitted]

Investigations by the State Security Detectives revealed that terrorist Muhammad Dardir 'Abd-al-Wahhab acted as a liaison officer between the fugitive terrorists and their leaders from his home on Shahrur Street, off al-Jumhuriyah Street in Suhaj. He is a student at the Suhaj Secondary School and one of the organization's most recent recruits. He was in charge of communications and conveyed instructions via his telephone and the facsimile device attached to it. He used it to fax the statements the organization prepared on their operations, particularly the one issued in the wake of the assault on the tourist bus in Naj' Hammadi last week.

The ministry statement says that the security agencies will continue to chase the remaining fugitive terrorists in light of the information obtained from the terrorists who were arrested today.

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Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Holds News Conference

LD0409201794 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 4 Sep 94

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution has held an international news conference, attended by around 100 correspondents representing the world news agencies, the Arab and international television and radio networks, and newspapers and magazines' correspondents from all over the world. At this conference the brother leader of the revolution spoke about a range of Arab and international issues, and began by reaffirming that power in the Great Jamahiriyah is in the hands of the masses alone, who make the decisions.

Concerning what is termed as the Lockerbie issue, the brother leader of the revolution explained that the Great Jamahiriyah has done all it can in order to resolve this problem, and underscored that the two Libyan suspects refuse to appear before the courts of America and England, and that their lawyers and families also reject this, because they do not trust these courts.

Regarding the dispute between Egypt and Sudan, the brother leader pointed out that this falls within the context of a real imperialist-Israeli conspiracy against the Arab nation, aimed at sowing the seeds of dissension and division in the Arab homeland, and at imposing a blockade against the Arab nation, country after country.

He stressed that the embargo imposed on Iraq is for the sake of the Israelis, not for the sake of Kuwait, and is within the framework of implementing the imperialist-Israeli scheme against the Arab nation, and the destruction of any Arab potential that could be used against the Israelis one day.

During the international news conference, the brother leader of the revolution affirmed that the unjust measures imposed against the Arab Libyan people will not force it to abandon its independence and freedom, even if these measures were to last until doomsday. Concerning U.S. aggressive provocations against the people of Haiti, the brother leader of the revolution said that America practices a racist policy toward the states of the Caribbean, Central America, and Latin America, which are of Spanish, African, and Arab origin. Evidence of this, he said, is America's contempt for the independence and sovereignty of Haiti, Grenada, Panama, and Cuba, and he underscored that the people will need to form a new universal front in order to defend themselves, because the independence of all peoples is now in jeopardy.

Algerian President Ends Visit, Departs

LD0209133894 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 2 Sep 94

[Excerpts] Liamine Zeroual, president of the brotherly state of Algeria, and the delegation accompanying him left Tripoli this morning at the end of his official visit to the Great Jamahiriyah after participating in the great celebrations to mark the 25th anniversary of the great international 1 September revolution. [passage omitted]

Before departing, the Algerian president made a statement to JANA in which he said: As I leave my second homeland, the Great Jamahiriyah, I extend my deepest thanks to the brotherly Libyan people and their leadership for the warm reception we received and their hospitality since our arrival in this pleasant land. I would also like to express my deep satisfaction at the positive results which I and my brother, Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, the leader of the Libyan revolution, achieved during our meeting and talks, and which, God willing, will serve to give a new impetus to the relations of cooperation and brotherliness between the one Arab people in the two brotherly countries. [passage omitted]

Sudanese President al-Bashir Interviewed on Visit

LD0309134194 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1145 GMT 3 Sep 94

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Lieutenant General al-Bashir made a statement to JANA in which he expressed his pleasure at attending the great celebrations for the 25th anniversary of the international 1 September revolution.

He said: This visit enabled me to share this anniversary with my brothers and was an opportunity to meet my brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. We talked at length about bilateral relations and Arab and African relations. We touched on the attempts the Arab nation now faces to polarize and fragment it and to normalize relations with the enemy.

President 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir added that in this difficult time we are witnessing a state of fragmentation that is afflicting the Arab homeland. I talked to my brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi about the concerns of the Arab nation and the possibility of clearing the Arab air and reuniting the Arabs. Proceeding from this, we have responded to the efforts of my brother, the leader, in an attempt to mend the rift and we have halted the media campaigns in the hope that this will improve Egyptian-Sudanese relations in view of their strategic importance. [passage omitted]

He said he was confident that the Great Jamahiriyah was capable of clearing the Arab air and uniting the Arab nation in the face of all the challenges facing it so that it would be able to overcome the situation in which imperialist forces were trying to make the Israeli enemy [words indistinct] in this region. This was unacceptable and the situation would be rectified through our Arab unity.

Carlos 'Turned Away' Twice, Links Refused

NC0309144194 Paris AFP in English 1417 GMT 3 Sep 94

[Excerpt] Tripoli, Sept 3 (AFP)—Libya turned away international terrorist Carlos the Jackal on two occasions

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and refused to have any links with him, Foreign Minister 'Umar al- Muntasir told AFP Saturday [3 September].

"We had no links with Carlos. He came here twice and we sent him away both times" during the last three years, al-Muntasir said when asked about the possibility of Carlos referring to Libya in his trial. [passage omitted]

Lockerbie Lawyer Offers Explanations to Islamic Leaders

LD0209223094 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 2 Sep 94

[Excerpts] A meeting was held this morning at the headquarters of the International Islamic Call Society [Jam'iyat al-Da'wah al- Islamiyah al-'Alamiyah]. The meeting included the Society's brothers secretary general and international Islamic popular leaderships, who represent more than 30 countries. They are to take part in the Libyan Arab people's ceremonies on the 25th anniversary of the international great 1 September revolution. [passage omitted]

On his part, the lawyer of the two Libyan nationals, suspects in the so-called Lockerbie case, offered an extensive explanation to the Islamic popular leadership over this crisis, which was fabricated by Western countries, explaining its dimensions and effects and the Great Jamahiriyah's stance, which adhered to international law and conventions. [passage omitted]

Sudan

Egyptian Forces Reportedly Launch Attack on Hala'ib

EA0309204394 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 3 Sep 94

[Statement issued by the Foreign Ministry in Khartoum on 3 September]

[Text] An armed Egyptian force mounted a pressing attack [hujum daghit] on Marsa Shallal, in the Hala'ib area, and kidnapped a Sudanese officer at that same location.

Information available to the Sudanese authorities indicate that orders have been issued to the Egyptian Forces in the area to occupy the town of Hala'ib by force if the Sudanese Forces do not withdraw from it. This has been confirmed from observations of the movements of vehicles and tanks, as well as naval vessels, around the town of Hala'ib.

Perhaps what reveals the premeditated hostile intentions of the Egyptian authorities toward Sudan is their commencement of these provocations at a time when the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah is striving to mediate between the two countries, and after directives from Sudanese President Lieutenant General al-Bashir to the national media that they should not refer to the Egyptian regime in negative terms.

Late this afternoon, in the face of this hostile action, the Foreign Ministry summoned the Egyptian ambassador and handed him an official note asking the Egyptian Government to withdraw its aggressive force from Hala'ib and immediately release the Sudanese officer.

The Sudanese Foreign Ministry, while denouncing this flagrant attack, which represents a deliberate provocation and includes a dangerous precedent of kidnapping a Sudanese officer in this brutal manner, calls upon the Egyptian Government to review its stands toward Sudan and stop this series of provocations, and the escalation of the situation in general—in the Hala'ib triangle in particular—so as to enable the two sides to avert the emergence and exacerbation of imminent dangers.

Officer Reportedly Released

EA0409152594 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 4 Sep 94

[Excerpt] The minister of culture and information, Mr. 'Abd-al-Basit Sabdarat, has said that the Egyptian authorities this morning released the Sudanese officer they kidnapped yesterday in the Hala'ib area. [passage omitted]

Al-Bashir Returns From Libyan Celebrations

EA0309210094 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 3 Sep 94

[Excerpt] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, the president of the Republic, this evening returned to Khartoum from the Arab Libyan Jamahiriyah, where he attended celebrations marking the 25th anniversary of the 1st September Revolution. [passage omitted]

Speaks on Ties With Libya, Egypt

EA0209221294 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 2 Sep 94

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, the president of the Republic, who is leading Sudan's delegation attending the celebrations marking the 25th anniversary of the 1 September Revolution, held a news conference yesterday afternoon.

At the beginning of the news conference, Lt. Gen. al-Bashir saluted the Libyan Jamahiriyah's steadfastness in the face of all the colonialist conspiracies aimed at damaging its unity and revolutionary orientation. His Excellency gave a briefing on the efforts to establish peace in the country and the success of the economic experiment through self-reliance and increased production. He reviewed the achievements realized in the different political, social, educational, and development areas.

Concerning Sudan's foreign relations, the president of the Republic made it clear that they are based on mutual respect and common interest as well as respect for the sovereignty of nations and noninterference in their

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internal affairs. He pointed out that the Arab nation is targeted by the dangerous attempts at normalization of relations with the Zionist enemy.

In regard to Sudanese-Egyptian relations, Lt. Gen. al-Bashir stressed their importance for the two countries in terms of the strategic value of the two countries for one another. He said that the stopping of the media campaign against Egypt by Sudan is in response to the generous initiative of the Libyan leader, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the 1 September Revolution, and confirmed Sudan's interest in rising above differences and containing them. In regard to the trial of an Egyptian citizen in Khartoum, he pointed out that he has committed a crime and announced that Sudan is ready to welcome any Egyptian lawyer who wishes to study the documents on the case.

His Excellency added that the Egyptian Government contrives crises and tensions. He referred to its stand of not complying with international law when it refused to return the hijacker of a Sudanese aircraft to the Sudanese authorities, its occupation of the Hala'ib triangle, and the sheltering of the so-called Sudanese opposition. He said: We have no differences with the Egyptian people but with their ruling regime.

Delegation Leaves for Peace Talks in Nairobi

EA0509164794 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 5 Sep 94

[Text] The government's delegation to the peace talks with the rebel movement headed by Dr. Ghazi Salah al-Din, the minister of state in the office of the president, left for Nairobi today.

Before leaving the airport, Dr. Ghazi told journalists that the government's participation in this round at the appointed time confirmed Sudan's commitment to the initiative of the Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development [IGADD] states and its renewed commitment to a peaceful solution to the problem of the south within a united Sudan.

His excellency stressed that the change in the composition of the delegation did not mean a change in conviction. He said the delegation had a full mandate as before.

Dr. Ghazi announced that during the talks the delegation would submit the government's proposal on the creation of a new mechanism for the talks with the rebel movement in addition to making contacts with the committee of the IGADD states.

The head of the delegation reiterated the government's rejection of the IGADD committee's statement accusing the government of lacking seriousness and flexibility. He said the committee had distinguished between the parties to the conflict on the one hand and the mediator on the other, with the latter's role being merely to facilitate the talks.

On the American role in the talks, Dr. Ghazi expressed the hope that it would be more positive following recent contacts. He said the Western role had been supportive of the rebel movement although intending to push the movement into a quagmire in the event of Western intervention in Sudan. He called on Western states to increase their understanding of the role of religion in governing society and of the sacredness of the sovereignty of states in Africa. He added that if the fragmentation which the rebel movement sought exerted a negative effect on the talks, then the government would not wait for a solution from one table. He was referring to the government's program to achieve peace internally. The delegation comprises Dr. Nafi Ali Nafi, the minister of state in the office of the president; Eng Gwang Tong, the chairman of the Peace Committee in the Transitional National Assembly; and Mr. Musa Sid Ahmad, the rapporteur of the Peace Committee.

Khartoum Scholars Issue Fatwa Against Cairo ICPD

NC0309163294 Paris AFP in English 1549 GMT 3 Sep 94

[Text] Khartoum, Sept 3 (AFP)—Protestors from an Islamic university in Khartoum issued a fatwa Saturday [3 September] against the UN World Population Conference in Cairo [International Conference on Population and Development, ICPD], calling on all Moslems to boycott and "lead a war" against the event.

Organisers said more than 4,000 students and lecturers from the Holy Koran and Islamic Science University marched Saturday on the city's UN office, where the fatwa—or religious decree—declaring the conference and its draft recommendations as counter to Islam was issued to UN representatives.

The protesters, including women students, raised copies of the Koran and chanted anti-American and anti-United Nations slogans.

They handed two memoranda to UN envoy 'Adil Sughayyirun, declaring that UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali had abandoned the cause of developing countries and was "helping to eliminate" the human race by backing the conference's proposals for stemming world population growth.

The "aims of this conference and the recommendations of the preparatory committee are against the Islamic faith and the rules of the Islamic Shari'a (law)," one memorandum said, adding that the document was a fatwa it reached after reviewing the aims of the conference.

The protestors also stressed that "no Moslem should participate in this conference" but should rather "lead a war" against it. Adoption of the recommendations would amount to blasphemy.

Sudan said last week it would boycott the conference, which gets under way Monday and to which more than 150 countries are to send delegates, and organize an

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alternative forum in which all countries that oppose the recommendations would be able to take part.

Anti-ICPD Demonstrations Organized in Khartoum

EA0509161694 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 5 Sep 94

[Text] Popular federations, trade unions, and other organizations in the State of Khartoum have organized a big demonstration for this morning to start at Martyrs' Square in front of the Republican Palace to denounce, condemn, and reject the International Conference on Population and Development [ICPD] being held in Cairo. The demonstrators will deliver a memorandum to the United Nations. Dr. Majdhub al-Khalifah, the minister of state for labor and administrative reform, requests all workers at government departments and organizations to come out and take part in the demonstration. Their departments and organizations will be responsible for their transport.

Meanwhile, the committee for political and mobilization affairs of the Transitional National Assembly and the General Federation of Sudanese Trade Union Syndicates appeal to all workers in the private and public sectors to come out and take part in the demonstration.

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Kuwait

Ministers To Explain New Moves Answering Iraqi Claims

LD0609090494 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0710 GMT 6 Sep 94

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 6 Sep (KUNA)—Acting prime minister and foreign minister, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, in press statements published here today, reaffirmed the beginning of new Kuwaiti political moves to outline the Kuwaiti viewpoint with regard to the recent Iraqi allegations on the the implementation of UN resolutions, and the so-called new Iraqi initiatives concerning prisoners and recognition of the State of Kuwait. Shaykh Sabah told AL-SIYASAH that a number of ministers have been recalled from their leave abroad so as to make foreign tours to convey written messages and to explain to heads of state and governments the facts regarding the need to continue pressure on the Iraqi regime until it complies with all UN resolutions, without being selective and without any deception. He said that the ministers who will be making such tours will be the information minister, the defense minister, the minister of communication, electricity and water, and an undersecretary at the Foreign Ministry. [passage omitted]

Shaykh Sabah pointed out that the information minister will visit Moscow to convey a message to the prime minister of the Russian Federation, while the defense minister will visit France, Britain, and Italy to convey a similar message to the heads of government. The Foreign Ministry undersecretary will convey a message to the Arab League Secretary General Dr. Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, and will then visit China and New Zealand. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

Religious Authorities Urge Boycott of ICPD

MM0509132194 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 2 Sep 94 pp 1, 4

[Unattributed report: "Shaykh Bin-Baz Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Population Conference Covers Issues Which Include Forbidden, Detestable Things"]

[Excerpt] Jeddah, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT; Al-Ta'if, SPA—The senior ulemas in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia are unanimous that the International Conference on Population and Development [ICPD], scheduled to be held in Cairo on 5 September, should be boycotted. Shaykh 'Abd-al-'Aziz Bin-Baz, chairman of the Senior Ulemas' Council, told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT yesterday that the issues on the conference's agenda were not in harmony with the Islamic shari'ah and that the conference should not be attended because it deals with issues which include numerous forbidden, detestable things. He added that the Islamic World League's Constituent Assembly would hold an extraordinary session tomorrow to discuss the conference document.

Salih Bin-Muhammad al-Luhaydan, a member of the Senior Ulemas' Council, told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the document's contents were in violation of sound nature and ethics and contained blasphemy and deception and that Muslims should boycott and not attend the conference but should stand united—governments, peoples, individuals, and groups—against any call for licentiousness, unethical behavior, or the spread of immorality.

Salih Bin-Fawzan al-Fawzan, member of the Senior Ulemas' Council, said: The council decided that, under the shari'ah, Muslims should not attend that conference because its document offends Muslim sentiment, undermines Muslim values, and is to be considered a ferocious offensive against Islamic society with the aim of destroying its purity and turning it into an immoral, permissive society in violation of all laws and of allowing illegitimate sexual relationships.

Shaykh Muhammad al-Tayyib, a retired judge, said that the call made by the kingdom's senior ulemas urging Muslims to boycott the ICPD was made because the conference document contains permissive principles, measures, and aims that contravene Islam and Islamic laws. [passage omitted]

Yemen

'Jihad,' Government Forces Clash in Aden

Fighting Breaks Out 3 Sep

NC0309142494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1356 GMT 3 Sep 94

[Text] Aden, 3 Sep (MENA)—MENA has learned that a clash occurred today between the Yemen Reform Grouping's Jihad Forces and the government's Central Security Forces. The Jihad Forces seized several police stations in Aden's Kraytar district and tried to occupy the 20 June Camp in the same area.

According to eyewitnesses, the sounds of heavy caliber weapons and exploding shells started being heard at noon today and then tanks appeared and moved toward the police stations to force the Jihad Forces to evacuate them. The battles centered around the city's municipal market and in the vicinity of the [name indistinct] Bank. All access roads to the Kraytar district were closed to prevent the extremist groups from advancing on Abyan.

Aden took on a war atmosphere as a result of gunfire duels between the warring groups. RPG launchers, Kalashnikovs, and other automatic weapons were used in the fighting.

Stores shut their doors and the people fled to their houses in panic before the snipers. The police were placed on high alert in the city to forestall any escalation.

It should be noted that a clash occurred yesterday between Islamist groups and the police after Friday prayers. The Islamist groups attacked a cemetery within the grounds of al-'Aydarus Mosque in Aden.

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20 Dead in Clashes

LD0309162594 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1426 GMT 3 Sep 94

[Text] Aden, 3 Sep—Government security services in Aden have said that the number of people killed in the clashes between security forces and elements from the "Islamic Jihad Organization" in Aden today reached 20, including three members of the police force.

In a statement to a KUNA correspondent, the security services said that this morning at 1000 [0700 GMT], police forces from Aden, supported by a large number of police forces from Sanaa, sealed off the southern town of Crater and attacked the positions of the aforementioned organization. RPG rockets, machine guns, and hand grenades were used in a battle which continued until 1500 this afternoon.

Security services also said that the army has sent a number of tanks to cut off the route between Aden and Abyan governorate, in order to stop any reinforcements from reaching the Islamic Jihad Organization's elements.

Security services added that clashes spread to the streets of the town and that citizens took part with government police forces in attacks against elements of the organization, who demolished shrines of well-known saints in Aden. They said that the situation in the town is stable now that the elements of the Islamic Jihad Organization have fled to the mountains, where they are still being chased by police forces.

The Yemeni Ministry of Interior is expected to issue a communique today on the situation in Aden.

Security Personnel Killed

JN0409055094 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 4 Sep 94

[Text] A responsible source at the Interior Ministry has told the Yemeni News Agency, SABA', that on the morning of 2 September 1994, some irresponsible extremist elements, unaware of the results of their acts, demolished graves near the al-Hashimi Mosque in Shaykh 'Uthman and the 'Aydarus Mosque in Kraytar in the Aden Governorate. They spread anxiety among defenseless citizens, especially because these elements carried various weapons during their irresponsible acts. Security and police forces intervened to stop the perpetrators. They managed to bring the situation under control and to apprehend some of the perpetrators. They also chased those who escaped and monitored their movements.

Yesterday morning, 3 September 1994, the police and central security forces managed to locate the places where the perpetrators were hiding. In cooperation with the Political and Military Police agencies, the police forces besieged those places and ordered the perpetrators to turn themselves in, with and their weapons. The perpetrators responded by opening machinegun fire, firing mortar shells, and hurling hand grenades against the police and security forces, prompting the police forces to exchange fire with them. The situation ended in the full control of the police and security forces and detention of the perpetrators. Life was returned to normal.

The Interior Ministry source said the incident resulted in the martyrdom of four Political and Central Security personnel and the injury of four Central Forces and police personnel. The incident also resulted in the death of three perpetrators.

Meanwhile, the police and security forces continue to apprehend a number of perpetrators. Investigations are continuing to identify the party responsible for the incidents.

The responsible source indicated that the those irresponsible acts came at a time when all the state and government agencies are focusing their efforts on reconstruction, building, and development. Those acts are intended to blemish the great victory that our people have scored for Yemen and the Yemeni unity. The source stressed that the Interior Ministry will firmly and strongly confront any acts designed to harm the security of the homeland and citizens. They will not hesitate to take all legal measures to spread security, safety, and stability.

Saudi-Funded Group Said Responsible

JN0509192594 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1750 GMT 5 Sep 94

[Text] Sanaa, 5 Sep (INA)—A [Yemeni] security source today held foreign circles responsible for implementing a conspiracy designed to destabilize Yemen and for carrying out acts of violence in the city of Aden during the past three days.

In statements published today by the newspaper AL-MITHAQ, speaking for the ruling General People's Congress, Brigadier General Ghalib Mutahhar al-Qamash, official in charge of Yemeni Political Security, said the events which took place in Aden on Friday [2 September]—which aimed to destroy several mosques and graves—were part of a foreign conspiracy aimed at underming Yemen's sovereignty and unity. He revealed that these acts were carried out after a foreign party lured the morally weak into serving the interests of Yemen's enemies. He also explained that the Yemeni competent authorities finalized a comprehensive investigation designed to learn about the political motives of those responsible for the subversive acts in Aden.

Yemeni security sources said here today that those charged with carrying out the recent riots and acts of violence are affiliated with a group calling itself al-Salafiyah [an orthodox Muslim group] which is funded by the Saudi regime. They pointed out that this group is led by Tariq al-Fadli, who has close relations and common interests with the Saudi regime.

Destruction of Graves Condemned

JN0509163194 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 3 Sep 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by Iqbal 'Ali 'Abdallah]

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[Excerpts] Aden—Armed groups from the Islamic Jihad Organization in Yemen yesterday demolished the graves of some Muslim saints near several mosques in Aden. This resulted in armed clashes between citizens and these groups, killing a citizen in the Shaykh 'Uthman area near the Hashemite saints's grave. Representatives from the Yemeni Reform Grouping quickly condemned what took place in the city and cautioned against sedition. [passage omitted]

A senior Yemeni Reform Grouping official in Aden condemned "the destruction of the Muslim saints' graves by the Islamic Jihad elements yesterday." He added: This action has nothing to do with religion and the Islamic shari'ah; it aims to harm Islam and foment sedition among Muslims.

The senior party official continued: The Grouping in Aden earlier warned against the schemes of the Islamic Jihad Organization—whose elements are mostly Arab Afghans—as well as some Yemeni mercenaries known as "al-Salafiyun" [an orthodox Muslim group]. He added: There is no link between the Grouping and this terrorist organization. He urged the security organs to take strict measures against the elements trying to create an atmosphere of terror in Aden. [passage omitted]

In another development, security sources said that a small aircraft belonging to "Canadian Occidental Petroleum Limited" was blown up at Aden International Airport at dawn yesterday The sources pointed out that preliminary investigations indicate that a bomb was placed inside the aircraft which used to transfer senior company employees and workers from Aden to the al-Masilah airport in Hadhramaut, where the company is exploring an [oil] site.

The sources said that these organized subversive actions are aimed to prevent the world oil companies operating in Yemen. They asserted that this scheme was prepared outside Yemen and aimed to deprive Yemen of its oil resources.

'Uneasy Calm' Reported

JN0609063294 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 6 Sep 94 p 1

["From P.V. Vivekanand in Aden"]

[Text] Tension ran high but an uneasy calm reigned in Aden on Monday [5 September] as security forces continued a crackdown on Islamic zealots on the loose trying to impose their will on a people left at the mercy of political forces with conflicting agendas after a devastating civil war.

Gunshots and explosions could be heard from some parts of Aden, a city desperately trying to adjust to the realities of the dramatic changes brought in by the victory of the federal government in Sanaa in the two-month civil conflict that ended on July 7.

Security forces maintained a tight vigil on all entry points into the city of 400,000, checking every vehicle and often confiscating weapons. But there was no sign of the pitched battles of the weekend following the destruction to holy shrines that Adenis reversed but deemed blasphemous by Islamic radicals.

Vehicles at entry points into the city stretched kilometres into the main highways as soldiers in different uniforms searched everyone.

Within the city, dozens were reportedly arrested, but there has been no official account of the security situation except that calm had returned to Aden.

The official toll during the battles in the Crater district of Aden after extremists of the Jihad group disowned by the mainstream al-Islah party but believed to be linked with Al-Islah was seven dead and eight injured, including security men. [sentence as published] Residents say the toll was much higher.

A mosque in the heart of Crater, housing the remains of Aidarous, a 15th century imam widely respected as a saint, was ransacked on Friday by Jihad members, who also destroyed tombs in a nearby cemetery and removed headstones.

Their argument, according to residents, was that headstones bearing names are blasphemous.

Armed residents resisted the gunmen and battles ensued in the area before security forces moved in and the clashes spread. It was only later in the evening that some semblance of order was restored.

"The Jihad group, with support from infiltrators of the Socialist Party, was behind the trouble," said 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, the planning minister in the Sanaa government. "Things are well under control."

But for any residents of this once-freewheeling, liberal port city which thrived under British rule that ended in 1967, the incident was another move by Islamic hardliners to impose their will on Aden and the entire south of the country through force.

Well-organised al-Islah members have already banned alcohol, imposed strict Islamic dress codes, and are going around enforcing their own code of conduct in line with what they see acceptable in Islam.

Women are not allowed to go out after sunset without a male relative as escort; a few incidents have already been reported of Islah zealots demanding that men and women moving together prove their relationship, they have to be either married or be of the same family.

For the moment, the central government in Sanaa, which includes Islah members, appears to be giving rope to Islah radicals in Aden, given that the dominant party of President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, is in the throes of forming a new government.

Al-Islah threw its weight behind Mr. Salih's party during the north-south civil war demanding an equal share of power in the new government.

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"The civil war has left a political vacuum in Aden and elsewhere in the south," said Mr. Aulaqi Hussayn, a British-trained lawyer.

"As long as the political vacuum is not filled, there will be more violent incidents," warned Mr. Aulaqi. "The people of Aden are hoping for security, stability and a better life..."

YSP Elects New Politburo, Rejects Former Leaders

NC0509120894 Paris AFP in English 1019 GMT 5 Sep 94

[Text] Sanaa, Sept 5 (AFP)—The southern Yemen Socialist Party (YSP) elected a new Politburo on Monday [5 September] and turned its back on its leaders who fled abroad after the country's two-month civil war.

The new politburo was to meet again later the same day to replace the party secretary general, 'Ali Salim al-Bid, who escaped to Oman just before the war ended on July 7.

Delegates said they would also draw up an outline of the party's new political programme, following the south's defeat by northern troops.

The new body has kept only seven of its original 25 members, adding 14 people from the YSP Central Committee to the body, they said.

One of the incoming members of the trimmed-down politburo, 'Uthman 'Abd-al-Jabbar, told AFP that the new body was the "legitimate leadership" of the party.

The election came at the end of four days of talks in the Yemeni capital where more than 200 party members pledged to support Yemen's four-year-old unity.

They rejected the secession of the south declared by al-Bid on May 21, after war broke out between his forces and northern troops loyal to President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih on May 5.

It followed months of tension between the two leaders on how to run the country, which was created out of the merger of former Marxist South Yemen and the conservative North.

'Abd-al-Jabbar said the 18 dropped members of the Politburo who had sought refuge abroad would not be thrown out of the party. They could join the party's Central Committee if they returned to Yemen.

Seven of them are on a list of 16 southerners who are excluded from a general amnesty declared by Salih at the end of the war. Salih has said the 16 should be tried as traitors and war criminals.

The president has called on the YSP several times since the end of the war to elect a new leadership excluding the "separatist" leaders as a condition for playing a role in Yemeni politics.

'Abd-al-Jabbar said the new Politburo would aim to relaunch the party and decide on whether to take part in a new government.

The YSP is still one of three parties in the ruling coalition along with Salih's General People's Congress and the Islamic Al-Islah. It has four ministers.

Most of the southern leadership fled the country when northern troops captured the southern stronghold of Aden on July 7.

Pro-Union YSP Members Electing Provisional Leaders

NC0309201694 Paris AFP in English 1833 GMT 3 Sep 94

[Text] Sanaa, Sept 3 (AFP)—Pro-union members of the Yemen Socialist Party (YSP) were locked in a meeting Saturday [3 September] in a bid to elect a provisional leadership and thrash out a new political line following the end of the two-month civil war.

Most of the party's leaders including its head 'Ali Salim al-Bid fled the country when northern troops loyal to President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih captured the southern port city of Aden on July 7.

More than 200 party members including 46 out of the 110 central committee members and 27 out of the 56 deputies attended the meeting here, participants said.

The main speaker at the morning session 'Ali Salih 'Ubayd condemned the secession of the south announced by al-Bid on May 21 in the name of the YSP, after war broke out between rival north and south forces on May 5.

"Secession is a crime," 'Ubayd said, repeating the YSP's "commitment to unity and constitutional legality."

He also said the YSP stood by an accord signed in Amman in February between northern and southern leaders aimed at ending months of hostilities and envisaging large-scale political reforms including a decentralisation of power called for by the YSP.

But the reforms were never implemented because of tensions between the YSP, Salih's General People's Congress and the Islamic al-Islah party which form the ruling coalition in the Yemeni government.

YSP leaders were also holding talks here late Saturday to debate a draft document on the party's political future, which was handed out on Thursday on the opening day of the talks.

The document acknowledges the "faults" of the YSP leaders who proclaimed secession and condemns "the campaign aimed at putting all the responsibility for the war on the YSP alone."

YSP deputy Muhammad Sa'id Fadil said the meeting was due to finish on Sunday with the election of a provisional leadership entrusted with organising a party general congress.

Despite invitations no members of the GPC or Al-Islah were present at Saturday's meeting, participants said.

Meanwhile clashes in Aden between police and armed militants from the Islamic Jihad (holy war) group left seven dead and eight wounded, the interior ministry said.

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Foreign Ministry Announces Nonattendance at ICPD

JN0309143594 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1400 GMT 3 Sep 94

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Sep (INA)—Iraq has decided not to participate in the International Conference on Population and Development [ICPD], scheduled to open in Cairo on 5 September.

A responsible source at the Foreign Ministry attributed Iraq's decision to the sharp disagreements that are expected to surface at the conference.

In a statement to INA, the source said the Foreign Ministry has studied the document on the ICPD's activity and found that it contains social, economic, and political stands and attitudes that would lead to sharp disagreements. This is in addition to the document's contradiction with Iraq's policies and its social and development approaches.

MENA Reports Tight Security in Baghdad, Calm in North

NC0409090894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0830 GMT 4 Sep 94

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Sep (MENA)—The Iraqi capital, Baghdad, is experiencing unprecedentedly tight security measures. Armed patrols, whose plainclothes members are believed to be members of the ruling Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, are deployed in the city.

These measures come less than two weeks after a booby-trapped car blew up near the offices of the Iraqi newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH, which left one Egyptian child dead and 13 Iraqi citizens wounded.

Meanwhile, there was calm and stability in northern Iraq today. No violence or clashes between the Kurdish parties have been reported since the cease-fire, which was arranged yesterday.

Observers believe that if the cease-fire in northern Iraq continues to hold, in the next few days the French Government will invite Kurdistan Democratic Party Leader Mas'ud Barzani and Patriotic Union of Kurdistan Leader Jalal Talabani to Paris to sign the agreement reached between the two sides at the end of July under the auspices of France, the United States, and Britain with a view to ending instability in northern Iraq.

INA: Statements Prove Mubarak U.S. 'Stooge'

JN0409154694 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1155 GMT 4 Sep 94

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Sep (INA)—The newspaper AL-QADISIYAH has urged President Husni Mubarak to mind his tongue, discipline himself, and change his position toward Iraq if he has any respect for himself and his country.

In an article published today under the headline "May God Help Egypt," the paper wonders: Is President Mubarak aware that many nationalist and pan-Arab figures regretted the fact that Iraq and its president maintained good ties with him in the past?

The paper adds that these figures did not publicize their positions in this regard out of respect for President Saddam Husayn's efforts to build Arab solidarity and promote joint Arab action.

The paper goes on to say that President Husni Mubarak must realize that his regime was strong when it maintained strong ties with Iraq, and that Egyptians hold President Saddam Husayn and the Iraqi people in high esteem, and highly appreciate and love them.

The newspaper AL-QADISIYAH says: President Mubarak's problem is clear to us. It lies in the fact that the man does not make independent political decisions. He was destined to lead the greatest Arab country, which could have created large vistas for Egypt and the joint Arab action if it only sought to promote a true version of Arab solidarity that is hostile to colonialism and Arab reaction.

The paper adds: The statements Mubarak has made, as published in the London-based Saudi newspaper AL-HAYAH yesterday, confirm that he has remained a stooge of the Americans and Zionists, and that he has not changed, although several non-Arab states, including big powers that took part in the anti-Iraq aggression, have begun to change their positions in favor of Iraq.

AL-QADISIYAH goes on to say: President Mubarak's biggest problem, according to some of those who are close to him, is that whenever the Arab and Egyptian state of affairs pushes for a reconciliation, he comes out with thoughtless statements, causing setbacks and deterioration. This has prompted observers to wonder whether the man has been assigned with this task, or whether it is just a habit of his.

AL-QADISIYAH concludes by saying: There might be conflicting assessments of "Mubarak's tongue". But, it remains to be said that the noble and good Egyptians have their own views of the man. May God help Egypt.

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Peres Terms Peace With Syria 'Inevitable'

NC0409153194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1422 GMT 4 Sep 94

[Text] Jerusalem, 4 Sep (MENA)—Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has praised Egypt's policies under President Husni Mubarak, noting that Egypt seeks to promoted peace, stability, and economic and social development in the region.

Peres also commended the atmosphere of safety and stability prevailing in Egypt. He recalled that during a midnight stroll in his recent visit to Alexandria he found the city's streets bustling, safe, and secure. This came in an interview with the Israeli foreign minister by the press delegation accompanying Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa on his current official visit to Israel.

Peres said that a referendum on withdrawal from the Syrian Golan Heights must be held in Israel before the implementation of any agreement with Syria. There is a difference between Israel's withdrawal from Sinai and its withdrawal from the Golan. This difference, he said, arises from geography and Israel's security needs, as well as from Syria's insistence on the Golan being returned in one step, not in several stages as was the case with Sinai. Peres, however, expressed the belief that peace with Syria is inevitable.

Israel, Peres said, cannot sign an agreement to limit weapons of mass destruction while some countries in the region hesitate to take part in the very negotiations they call for.

The Israeli foreign minister disclosed that the Israeli measures on the Gaza and Jericho crossings of which the Palestinians complained have been discontinued after Minister 'Amr Musa conveyed the complaints to Israeli officials.

Peres called on all countries in the region to take more interest in economic strategy than in military ideology so that they will be able to compete with other countries that are already restructuring their economies. Countries in the region that fail to achieve political stability and raise their standards of living will have no future, he stated.

Rabin on Islamic Threat, Iran, Iraq, DPRK

TA0609113494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0805 GMT 6 Sep 94

["Special Rosh Hashanah" interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by political correspondent Shlomo Raz; place and date not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Raz] South Lebanon is on fire. A war, or at least a war of attrition, is being waged there. We heard soldiers say they are frustrated because their hands are tied and because the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is not acting with more determination, mainly against Hizballah.

[Rabin] I believe that the concept, established in 1985 upon the recommendation I [as defense minister] and the General Staff made to the national unity cabinet on how to provide peace and security to the settlements and the residents living along the border with Lebanon, is still correct. It is true that things have changed, but the changes do not warrant changing the concept. What has changed? In 1985 we were mainly facing the Palestinians. The Palestinian element in the war of attrition in the wave of terror against the IDF and the SLA [South Lebanese Army] in the security zone is todaydd The main part of the attacks is perpetrated by Hizballah against us. The reality has changed. Previously, the SLA and the residents of the security zone in south Lebanon fought against a foreign element, the Palestinians, now it is war among Lebanese elements. It is a burden and it is disturbing.

In its war against the Israeli presence in south Lebanon, Hizballah has the explicit support of the Lebanese and Syrian Governments. Our problem is how to deal with terror. I wish to remind us all: There were the illusions of fighting a war that would end all wars, of carrying out an operation that would eliminate terrorism once and for all. We have experienced this in Lebanon particularly. Following the Lebanon war in which the Palestinians indeed suffered a serious blow, they were replaced by a Lebanese terrorist element—Hizballah and others—whose attacks are graver than the Palestinians'. Hizballah receives Iranian aid in the form of money and weapons such as Sagger missiles, mortars, and Strella shoulder missiles. I only hope that they do not receive Stinger missiles from Afghanistan.

This is a new phenomenon, which is part of what we are witnessing in the Arab world. Had you asked me what concerns me most regarding the current processes in the Arab-Muslim world, I would say: The murky wave of Khomeyni-less Khomeynism, of extreme terroristic Islam which today encompasses—regardless of the Israeli-Arab conflict—many Arab and Muslim countries. The events in Algeria are not directly linked with Israel, but the fact that it is gaining strength is grave for us. From our point of view, in the face of this Islamic wave and the Islamic state that backs it, we see the following: Terror against us today is perpetrated by the extensions of this extremist Islamic wave. The lion's share of Palestinian terrorism is perpetrated by Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the Islamic Jihad, which are a part of that wave of the Khomeyni-less Khomeynism. In Lebanon, Hizballah is part of that wave as well.

I will add: In 1992—after we eliminated 'Abbas al-Musawi, who headed Hizballah, after we brought Mustafa al-Dirani here, and after the blow Hizballah suffered in the Jordan Rift Valley, in Nab' al-Dardarah [as heard]—we saw attacks against Israeli and Jewish targets. Again, I attribute them—even if I lack legal proof regarding the recent incidents in Argentina and London—to the terrorist infrastructure of the extremist Islamic wave which is today spread worldwide. We saw

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it in North American in the Twin Tower bombing, in London, Turkey, and Thailand. This is to say that we are facing terrorism carried out by the Palestinian and Lebanese extensions of the murky wave of the extremist Islam. Terror against Israeli and Jewish targets abroad is, again, carried by the same infrastructure of extremist Islam.

I will add a third aspect [of their activity]: They also operate against every moderate [Arab] regime, excluding Syria, which is at peace with us or is a potential partner for the normalization of relations. Not against all of them, of course. The ideology of the extremist Islam is fundamentally against the very existence of a non-Muslim political entity. At the same time, Iran, which backs this wave one way or another, is making efforts to arm itself with conventional and nonconventional weapons. In the long and medium run, it could become a threat of international significance. This, however, should be the problem of the whole world. From Israel's point of view, the main things are the current achievements by this wave in other parts of the Arab world, its terror operations against us here and against Jews and Israelis abroad, and its potential armament. This is why I believe it is important to promote peace making, while funding the Arab countries involved in it—and only them—because the ground on which extreme Islam breeds is harsh economic and social reality. This is the fertile ground on which it thrives worldwide.

[Raz] The question is what do we do about it? You said that the world should care about this, but it apparently does not, or at least Europe is uninterested, maintaining very tight economic ties with both Iraq and Iran.

[Rabin] Indeed. I believe that the United States and President Clinton justifiably decided on the dual containment policy against Iran and Iraq. The sanctions imposed on Iraq should continue. The regime there has not changed, and there is no certainty that when the sanctions are lifted, Saddam Husayn will not revert to his evil ways. He might even be more motivated than in the past by a desire to take revenge.

I admit that, when it comes to Iran, the U.S. policy has not managed to obtain the European's support, except for Britain. Indeed, many countries in Europe, and Japan, help Iran for their own economic reasons because the issue at hand are deals worth millions of dollars for their civilian products. China and Russia are currently building two nuclear reactors each in Iran. At the same time, the main threat of providing arms, including short- and medium-range surface-to-surface missiles—and I speak of Middle Eastern ranges—as well as the distribution of knowledge on nuclear weapons comes from the DPRK. I believe the Americans are making a serious effort in this regard, and I hope that some Israelis will not stand in its way. [passage omitted]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1000 GMT carries a summary of the interview, adding that the prime minister "leveled criticism at the activity of some Israelis who attempt to approach the DPRK, but did not mention names. Our correspondent says that he was referring to senior Foreign Ministry officials."]

Weizman Favors Iraqi Contacts, Comments on Peace

TA0409195894 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 4 Sep 94

["Special Rosh Hashanah interview" with President 'Ezer Weizman by political correspondent Gadi Sukenik in Jerusalem on 4 September—recorded]

[Excerpt] President 'Ezer Weizman told our correspondent Gadi Sukenik tonight that he had expected the Palestinian Authority to perform better. In a special Rosh Hashanah interview, the president said that, contrary to the stands of the Israeli and U.S. Governments, he is in favor of exploring every avenue in an attempt to undermine Iran, including contacts with Iraq, if possible:

[Begin recording] [Weizman] I think we should be very alert with regard to the Palestinian issue. I had hoped it would work better. I know that some people are saying it is working better than they anticipated. It is true that we are no longer roaming about the Gaza Strip, and that is a relief for some people. But when two Jews are murdered in Ramla, and the two Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] perpetrators—and we know they were Hamas people—flee the scene, it stands to reason that they probably escaped to Gaza. The chairman, who is sitting in the midst of all this, should make much more serious efforts to catch the scum than he has been making to date. And if he does not, we must draw our conclusions: What next?

Furthermore, if he does not organize to prove receipt of money, he will get no money; if he gets no money, we will have a problem on our hands. If murders continue, we will not allow Gaza Strip laborers to work in Israel. Therefore, he should think this over. Economy is the key issue, because he has to feed the approximately 40 percent unemployed Gaza residents. I think he has been lacking in many respects: economy, as well as the security issue, including the capture of scum who have been making trouble for us inside the Green Line.

[Sukenik] Mr. President, you are famous for trying to be more involved than your predecessors in international and political affairs. What is your impression of the personal messages you occasionally relay and receive behind the scenes, out of the spotlights?

[Weizman] First of all, I am not involved. As a rule, I maintain close contacts with the prime minister, and we decide together when I should or should not be involved. You must not exaggerate.

[Sukenik] This morning you were briefed by Mr. Rabin, or so I heard.

[Weizman] Yes, I had the prime minister over for a pretty good omelet this morning. Regarding the Syrian

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issue, I have heard no messages. On the contrary, it is my personal assessment that they are playing a game designed to show us that they have time, that they are in no hurry. And if they are not in a hurry, I do not think we should be in a hurry either, although obviously, if they join the game, a much larger structure may evolve in the Middle East. It will naturally include Lebanon, and Egypt will then prosper much more than it is—and it is not prospering enough. Yet based on all we have heard from various foreign elements, including Russia and the United States, I do not think we can say that al-Asad is poised to jump in. I think we, too, should be careful not to appear overly eager. I do not think we should see the end of the year as the target date. I think timing this matter with a stopwatch is a mistake. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Labor MK: Tunisia Postpones Ties Due to Reports

TA0309125694 Tel Aviv 'DF Radio in Hebrew 0900 GMT 3 Sep 94

[Text] Tunisia has postponed the establishment of diplomatic relations with Israel due to Israeli reports that it will follow Morocco in taking such action, Labor Knesset Member [MK] Refa'el Edri told IDF Radio. Tunisia was supposed to establish ties with Israel within the next two months, Edri said.

[Begin Edri recording] I think the reports were premature and irresponsible. If we do not realize that we are living in the Middle East, where rash action is perilous, and that the longer way is really the shortest, we will fail to achieve the aim of advancing the peace process. I do not know where those reports originated, but let us operate as we did with Morocco, where we kept the announcement and the agreements that had been reached secret almost to the last minute. If we behave differently, the issue will be put off once again. [end recording]

Rabin: Palestinian Election Plan Contradicts DOP

JN0409160694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1530 GMT 4 Sep 94

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has said the plan put forward by the Palestinians on holding elections in the territories contradicts the joint Declaration of Principles [DOP]. He pointed out that the plan talks about setting up a legislative council in the territories, which contradicts the Oslo accord.

The prime minister made the remarks in reply to a question on the Palestinian side's allegations that Israel was procrastinating with regard to holding elections in the territories. The prime minister was speaking to our political correspondent Ehudit Budik on the Jewish New Year.

Peres Reacts to 4 Sep Attack in Gaza Strip

TA0509175694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1600 GMT 5 Sep 94

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres says Israel expects the Palestinian Authority to catch those responsible for yesterday's terrorist attack in the Gaza Strip. Peres warned that this would be a test of the Palestinians' ability to govern.

[Begin Peres recording] I think what is needed is a clear-cut stand on the side of the Palestinian Authority, to get hold of the murderers and the terrorists, and to bring an end to it. It is basically a test to their capacity to provide security at the regions that they are supposed to govern, and we expect them to do so. [end recording]

Rabin Sees PNA Inaction on Terror

TA0509134794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 5 Sep 94

[Text] In the wake of yesterday's terrorist attack, Prime Minister Rabin says that the Palestinian [National] Authority [PNA] is starting to overdo things. Mr. Rabin accuses the PA of not doing enough to cope with terror, saying this will make continuation of the peace process very difficult. This statement was made in a special Qol Yisra'el Rosh Hashanah interview [which will be aired at 0805 GMT on 6 September].

On Lieutenant Oren Edri's detention, the prime minister said reference is not to a new Jewish underground but to activity on an individual basis which is aimed at aiding a radical Jewish element to hurt Arabs. Edri is suspected of having tried to pass arms to radical Jews. Mr. Rabin emphasized that any such activity will be uprooted and the security authorities will act to uncover such phenomena.

Two Jews Wounded in Jerusalem Stabbing Incident

TA0409151594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 4 Sep 94

[Text] Two Jews were stabbed in the back near Ari'el Sharon's house in Jerusalem's Old City. One of the wounded is in serious condition, and the other was slightly injured. The security forces are combing the area for a suspicious-looking car that escaped in the direction of Ramallah.

Yasir al-Rujub Among 8 Hamas Members Arrested

TA0509170694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1600 GMT 5 Sep 94

[Text] Security forces have uncovered in recent days an eight-member Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] cell which was active in the Hebron area. An IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman said the members of the cell are accused of aiding three other terrorists in attacking members of the security forces and Israeli civilians. They are also accused of an attempt to take a resident of Alon Shvut hostage about two weeks ago. The abduction was unsuccessful due to the quick thinking of this resident, Yehuda Rotner, who jumped out of their car.

A Qol Yisra'el reporter adds that among the eight arrested is Yasir al-Rujub of the village of Dura, the brother of Jibril al-Rujub, head of the Palestinian security service. Also, the three main suspects of this cell are still on the wanted list and investigation is continuing.

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Government Calls For End to Fake Work Permits

TA0409070294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 4 Sep 94

[Text] Israel has called upon the Palestinian self-rule authority to act against the distribution of fake permits to enter and work in Israel. Israeli security officers fear that the forged permits are being used by terrorists from Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the Islamic Jihad to cross into Israel to carry out attacks. Dozens of Gaza Strip residents have been arrested for trying to cross over with the fake permits. They were taken to the Qezi'ot detention center pending legal action against them.

Cave of Patriarchs To Reopen for Trial Period

TA0409171394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1600 GMT 4 Sep 94

[Excerpts] The Cave of the Patriarchs will reopen temporarily on the 12th of October [as heard], and if new security measures prove to be successful, it will open officially at the end of the month. This was disclosed by the head of the Army's Central Command to members of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee who toured the site of February's massacre this afternoon. Mark Weiss reports:

[Begin Weiss recording] The Cave of the Patriarchs will reopen on the 12th of October for an experimental period and, if all goes smoothly, will be open again on a permanent basis at the end of October.

Members of the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee were briefed at the site on the new security arrangements introduced after February's massacre by Barukh Goldstein and the Shamgar Commission recommendations. The committee members were told that according to intelligence reports, both Jewish and Muslim extremists are planning attacks at the cave after it reopens. Committee Chairman Ori Or expressed satisfaction with the new arrangements, but said that more work still needs to be done. [passage omitted]

Speaking after inspecting the site, Knesset members from across the political spectrum criticized the fact that it is taking so long to complete the security measures, delaying the opening of the cave until after the Jewish high holidays. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin says it is unlikely that the Cave of the Patriarchs will be reopened before the end of October. He told the cabinet the government would implement the recommendations of the Shamgar Commission that investigated the Hebron massacre and security considerations would determine when the site would be reopened. Jack Katzenell reports:

[Begin Katzenell recording] Prime Minister Rabin says an event like the Hebron massacre could be described in the words of the chief of staff as a bolt from the blue, but only once. Therefore, the main criterion for deciding when to reopen the site will be security, Rabin said, and on that basis, I do not think it is possible to reopen before the end of October. Rabin said the government would implement the recommendations of the Shamgar Commission. It has not yet been decided whether Jews and Arabs would pray at separate times or would be separated physically, but the tendency was toward physical separation, although on a Jewish or Muslim festival, the site might be open to one religion only.

Labor and Welfare Minister Ora Namir sharply criticized the chief of the General Staff, General Ehud Baraq, for saying the Army would prefer to remain on the Golan Heights even after peace is achieved with Syria and that withdrawal from the towns in Judaea and Samaria to facilitate the Palestinian elections would make it more difficult to protect the Jewish settlers. Namir said these are political statements and they should not have been made by a serving officer, but Agriculture Minister Ya'aqov Tzur said the chief of staff was only doing his duty. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister Rabin said in his capacity as defense minister, he tells the generals: Heaven help if you don't say what you really think. If we, the politicians, ever give you the impression that we want you to say what will please us, we shall destroy the armed forces. General Baraq said he had served under the Likud and the Labor governments as chief of staff and chief of Military Intelligence, and both governments had made it clear that they wanted him to be frank and to speak plainly, and speaking about the Golan Heights, he had stressed that whatever the elected government decides, the defense forces would carry out the decision to the very best of their ability. [end recording]

Rabin Congratulates Major on IRA Cease-Fire

TA0309163494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1600 GMT 3 Sep 94

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has sent a message to his British counterpart, John Major, congratulating him on the agreement reached with the IRA. In his message, Rabin says that as one who is in the middle of complicated negotiations, he can understand how difficult it was to achieve a cease-fire. Rabin wished Major luck in meeting the challenge of the negotiations that lay before him.

Rabin: Strong IDF Equals 'Insurance' for Peace

TA0509091494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 5 Sep 94

[Text] Only a strong IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and a strong Israel are the insurance policies for peace. We must not delude ourselves that everybody wants peace, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin wrote in a New Year message to IDF soldiers and commanders. Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq said in his message to soldiers that the IDF continues to be strengthened. Our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports:

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The Government of Israel decided in the outgoing year to make peace with the Arab states, but we cannot yet rest on our laurels, we are still facing tough negotiations, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin wrote in his message to IDF soldiers and commanders. On the eve of Rosh Hashana, I am full of hope for a future of peace. This would all not be possible had you not defended the borders of the states, had you not shown an outstanding commitment to your defense endeavors, and had you not been what you are, the shoulder on which we lay our heads, the barrier which separates us from the danger of extermination. The peace we made and the peace we will still make depends on you. There are those who still long to annihilate us, there are those who still wait for us in ambush. Long after we achieve peace, we will still need you, the prime minister told the IDF.

Lieutenant General Ehud Baraq, the chief of staff, in his message to the soldiers, said it was a year full of defense activity. The IDF continues to assure security and life along the borders and in the territories. Political developments were begun this year. The IDF adapts itself to changing situations and security needs. Even in the peace process, the IDF will continue to carry the responsibility imposed on it. The IDF continues its training and study courses, the chief staff said. We continue in our endeavor to cut down the number of casualties in training accidents, and we all have a duty to make an even greater effort next year. The army continues to be strengthened, and the multiyear plan, based on assuring the IDF's long arm and its preparation for the battle field of the future despite ongoing budgetary constraints, is taking on shape.

The prime minister and the chief of staff, in their messages to IDF soldiers and commanders, say that Israeli families continued to pay the terrible price for our right to live here in peace. We remember our fallen friends with pain and we wish a speedy recovery to all IDF casualties and veterans, and their families. To our regret, not a single POW or MIA has returned home. We will continue to invest all our efforts to uncovering any bit of information about their fate and bring them home, Gen. Baraq said. Prime Minister Rabin also promised not to let up in our efforts to find out about their fate and bring them home.

IDF Officer Arrested for 'Right-Wing' Activity

TA0409065394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 4 Sep 94

[Text] The police say they have arrested an Army officer, who is a resident of Qiryat Arba', on suspicion of being involved in extreme right-wing activity. The arrested officer, Lieutenant Oren Edri, is said to have ties with the Qever Yosef Yeshiva in Nabulus. Edri is suspected of being an accomplice to crimes. Qol Yisra'el's police affairs reporter says that, apparently, he provided arms to extremists. He was arrested over the weekend while requesting leave from the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] to travel abroad.

An Israeli civilian tried over the weekend to break in into the Cave of the Patriarchs in Hebron. He was arrested by Border Police who handed him over to Hebron Police.

Secrecy Imposed on Case

TA0409184094

[Editorial Report] Jerusalem GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE in English at 1525 GMT on 4 September carries a notice issued by Police Foreign Press Liaison Eric Bar-Hen. The text of the notice reads: "Justice Cheir of the Haifa Magistrates Court has issued an order forbidding the publication of any details regarding the arrest of Oren Edri or the investigation in which he is involved."

Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1605 GMT on 4 September carries a report by Aviv Bushinsky on Edri's arrest, noting that "security elements have imposed complete secrecy on the affair." Bushinsky reports that "sources at the National Crime Investigation Department of the Israel Police, who are interrogating people involved in the affair, said this is a sensitive investigation whose existence the Shin Ben would like to conceal."

Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew at 1800 GMT on 4 September reports that "tomorrow morning, Edri's attorney, Tziyon Amir, will appeal to the High Court of Justice against orders forbidding him to meet with his client." The report adds that Police Minister Shahal told a Channel 1 correspondent that "detention orders of this nature are issued only in cases in which the authorities have evidence that such a move will prevent activity liable to hurt people or organizations."

Jerusalem New Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew at 1800 GMT on 4 September adds that "Edri's interrogation has only just begun, and it is not yet known how many people are involved in the affair. Nonetheless, four suspects have already been detained in what seems to be a new Jewish underground, although the Shin Bet noted this evening that as opposed to the previous Jewish underground, no connection has been found between the detainees and Jewish settlement leaders in the territories."

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Foreign Ministry Official Leaves For Kuwait 3 Sep

JN0309194794 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1900 GMT 3 Sep 94

[Text] A senior Jordanian diplomat left for Kuwait today, the first such visit since the Gulf crisis. A Foreign Ministry spokesman said Counselor Mashhur al-Zabn will inspect the Jordanian Embassy, closed since 1990, and meet with Kuwaiti officials during his four-day visit. It was not clear what would Counselor al-Zabn discuss in Kuwait nor whether the Kuwaiti authorities would allow the Jordanian Embassy to reopen.

Relations with Kuwait were almost severed since Jordan advocated a political solution to the Gulf crisis and refused to join the U.S.-led military alliance.

Ties With Saudi Arabia, Gulf Seen 'Reviving'

JN0509082294 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic 5 Sep 94 p 1

[Text] Lieutenant General Muhammad al-Muqbil al-'Utaybi, assistant director of the Saudi Intelligence Service, recently arrived in Amman on an unannounced private visit.

AL-MAJD learned that al-'Utaybi, who held many contacts with Jordanian political and security officials, returned to his country with positive impressions that will contribute to reviving Jordanian-Saudi relations.

Well-informed sources believe the Jordanian-Saudi estrangement, in particular, and the Jordanian-Gulf estrangement, in general, may be on their way to an end. These sources based this belief on a recent Jordanian measure to nominate Hani Khalifah as Jordan's ambassador to Saudi Arabia, after this position had remained vacant for a long time following the transfer of Ambassador Nasir al-Batayinah from Riyadh. However, Saudi Arabia has not yet responded to this nomination.

It is noteworthy that the United States no longer has any objection to the restoration of Jordanian-Gulf relations, after Jordan signed the Washington Declaration and normalized its relations with Israel.

Al-Majali Returns From U.S., Comments on Peace Talks

JN0409192894 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 4 Sep 94

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali returned to Amman a short while ago at the end of a visit to the United States where he delivered a number of lectures at international affairs forums in which he explained Jordan's firm positions on reaching just, comprehensive, and lasting peace for the Arab-Israeli conflict.

[Begin recording] [Al-Majali] First of all, this trip was different from other trips. The Rand Corporation [previous two words in English] which is well known for conducting researches on peace and economy, especially in the Middle East, invited His Royal Highness Prince Hasan to deliver a lecture on this subject. His highness apologized, so they invited me, and I went and lectured on peace and economy in the Middle East. The lecture was attended by a large audience and important questions were posed on the current peace process in the region, and the expectations of the peoples of the region from peace when it is established.

[Correspondent Salim 'Ali Dhiyab] In these lectures, you focussed on peace, its requisites, and achievements. What do you say on this?

[Al-Majali] In fact, people have been psychologically conditioned during the last three years to speak about peace. This talk has become more mature recently. As for peace between Jordan and Israel, negotiations are still going on, but we have sufficient assurances that the land will be returned in full, and our usurped water will also be returned in full. Talks on other issues concerning security and other topics will continue, but there will be no alternatives for the firm Jordanian constant positions.

[Dhiyab] But don't you feel that there is some sort of delay?

[Al-Majali] Based on the fact that I was involved in the negotiations in the past, I know that there are always issues that need more or less time. This is the nature of negotiations and the nature of complicated issues. Sometimes they need time and a long breath. We have a long breath, and we are not in a rush, because the one who is in rush is the one who stumbles. We avoid rush in order not to stumble.

[Dhiyab] At the beginning of your tour, you met with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and United Arab Emirates President Shaykh Zayid. Is there an initiative concerning Arab solidarity?

[Al-Majali] In fact, there is no initiative, but as you know, Jordan always opens its heart and extends its hand to all brothers. Jordan seizes all opportunities to bridge the gap between Arab brothers. [end recording]

Minister Leaves for Cairo To Attend ICPD

JN0409193594 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 4 Sep 94

[Text] Minister of Labor Khalid al-Ghizawi, the chairman of the National Committee for Population in Jordan, left Amman for Cairo this evening heading an official delegation that comprises representatives of establishments, universities, and non-governmental organizations concerned with population issues, to participate in the International Conference on Population and Development that will begin in Cairo tomorrow.

Al-Ghizawi said Jordan received an invitation from the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] to attend a meeting in Cairo this evening. The ICO meeting will be for the heads of delegations. The meeting was called for by Senegal, the current president of the ICO, in order to consult and coordinate on the issues to be discussed by the conference.

Al-Ghizawi added that the Jordanian ambassador in Cairo, who is the deputy head of delegation to the conference, will represent Jordan in this meeting.

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Clashes With Israelis Reported in South

Israeli, Lahd Positions Shelled

NC0209170494 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 2 Sep 94

[Text] AFP has quoted security sources in the south as saying that nine Katyushas have been fired at two positions held by the Israeli army and the agent Antoine Lahd-led [South Lebanese Army] militias, specifically near al-'Ayshiyah and al-Rayhan positions, in the border zone occupied by Israel

Villages Shelled by Israelis

NC0209171294 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 2 Sep 94

[Text] Our correspondent in al-Nabatiyah has reported that at 1830 the Israeli troops stationed in al-Zaffatah opened artillery fire at the villages of Habbush, 'Arab Salim, Jarju', and al-Jabal al-Rafi'. The same villages were hit by bursts of machine gun fire that reached al-Wadi al-Akhdar and the Habbush River basin. Intermittent shelling is still in progress.

Two Israeli helicopters have flown over al-Suwayda' position. Security sources have reported that resistance fighters attacked the al-Suwayda' position, manned by the Israeli occupation troops, at 1830 with machine guns, rockets, and mortars.

3 IDF Soldiers Slightly Hurt

TA0209183394 Jerusalem New Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 2 Sep 94

[Text] Three IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers were slightly wounded tonight in terrorist shelling in the eastern sector of the security zone in south Lebanon. Our correspondent in the north Menahem Horowitz reports that the terrorists opened mortar fire at IDF positions. IDF helicopters and guns returned fire at Hizballah positions.

1 SLA Soldier Dead, 4 Wounded

TA0209193394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 2 Sep 94

[Text] Two IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers were slightly wounded by a barrage of katyusha rockets fired at IDF and SLA [South Lebanese Army] positions in the central sector of the security zone in southern Lebanon this afternoon. The rockets were fired from the Tuffah area, a Hizballah stronghold. Following the incident, an SLA patrol was attacked with automatic fire and anti-tank missiles in the central sector. An SLA soldier was killed and four SLA soldiers were wounded in that incident.

In response, the IDF and SLA shelled villages in the Tuffah region. Lebanese reports said three Lebanese residents were wounded in the shelling.

Casualties Reported

NC0209193294 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 2 Sep 94

[Text] Resistance men fired several Katyushas at the western part of the occupied border zone at 2030. Lahd [South Lebanese Army] forces have reported that the firing came from the village of Yatar.

A member of the Lahd troops has been killed and three others wounded during a resistance operation against 'Arab Salim Hill while a Lahd patrol was passing by. Early this evening, Israeli forces shelled Jarju', 'Arab Salim, Habbush, and the nearby areas. Four people were wounded in Habbush as a result.

Attacks on Israeli Positions

NC0309074494 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 3 Sep 94

[Text] Units from the Islamic Resistance attacked the enemy and agent [South Lebanese Army—SLA] position in Rshaf with machine guns and rockets at 0550 today. The position was completely destroyed and a 12.7 mm machine gun was put out of action.

The faithful resistance staged a series of operations yesterday afternoon against the positions of the Israeli occupation forces and their agents in the south, inflicting human and material losses among their ranks. The Faithful Resistance has issued the following statement on these operations:

In this month of the prophet, God's prayers be with him and his scion, and on the anniversary of the disappearance of Imam Musa al-Sadr and his two companions, the Prisoners Hajj Mustafa al-Dirani and Jawad Qassi Unit set an ambush on the [word indistinct]-al-Suwayda' road. [Words indistinct] and the unit launched a sudden attack on a Zionist-SLA patrol, destroying an M-113 personnel carrier and killing its six-member crew. Smoke was seen rising from the vehicle.

At the same time, the Martyrs Hamzah Nasir-al-Din and 'Ali al-Tarabulsi Unit shelled the al-Suwayda position, scoring direct hits. A number of installations and all the gun emplacements were put out of action.

Meanwhile, the Martyrs Kamil Muhyi-al-Din and Qasim Nazir Unit attacked the same position with machine guns, disrupting movement inside the position and inflicting more human and material losses on the enemy.

The Faithful Resistance pledged in its statement to continue its resistance until the occupied terrotories are liberated from the filthy occupation.

Israeli Shelling Reported

NC0409064894 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 4 Sep 94

[Text] The hills of Iqlim al-Tuffah, particularly Jabal al-Rafi', Nab' al-Tasi, and the area of Sujud, came under

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artillery shelling at dawn today from the occupation posts in al-Suwayda' and al-Zaffatah. This was accompanied by helicopter sorties over the area, dropping scores of flares over al-Shaqif Castle and the al-Litani River. Mazra'at al-Hamra' and the outskirts of Yuhmur also came under shelling from al-Shaqif Castle.

At night, an 81-mm shell from the Hula position hit Wadi al-Saluqi, followed by another later on. At 0400, four 81-mm shells hit 'Aqmatah from the [name indistinct] post. The area west of Yatar was hit by five 155-mm shells from the occupation post in Yarid, and eight shells hit Nab' al-Tasi.

Israeli Overflights Reported

NC0509110094 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 5 Sep 94

[Text] Israeli warplanes flew low-altitude sorties over al-Nabatiyah and Iqlim al-Tuffah this morning. Additionally, the Israeli forces bombarded the Iqlim al-Tuffah ridges, particularly Jabal al-Rafi' early today.

Elsewhere, the Israeli forces continue their siege of Arnun. The village inhabitants continue their sit-in at the Lebanese Red Cross center in al-Nabatiyah. The inhabitants addressed appeals to the UN organizations to lift the siege and end the inhabitants' ordeal.

Security Forces Encircle Town To Stop Execution

NC0409082394 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0800 GMT 4 Sep 94

[Text] Following information that Muhammad Ahmad al-Dirani, who disappeared 15 days ago, would be executed this morning and reports that partisan elements would execute him in front of the house of Hajj Abu-'Ali al-Dirani, the Ba'labakk and Zahlah companies of the internal security forces, commanded by Colonel Samir Subh, initiated patrols throughout the night, set up mobile and fixed roadblocks backed up by vehicles, and also set up observations posts and closed all the roads leading to Qasr Naba.

The security forces are still encircling the town at this time and will continue to do so until al-Dirani is handed over to them. As we said, partisan elements wanted to execute him this morning.

Interior Ministry Involved in Cabinet Reshuffle

NC0309055194 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 3 Sep 94

[Text] A cabinet reshuffle was made last night involving the interior and social affairs ministries. Deputy Prime Minister Michel al-Murr was appointed interior minister in addition to his post as deputy prime minister. He replaced Bisharah Mirhij, who was appointed minister of state.

Minister [of State] Shahe Barsoumian was appointed social affairs minister, replacing Minister Ilyas Hubayqah, who kept his portfolio as minister of water and electricity resources.

Commenting on his appointment as minister of state, AL-SAFIR cited Minister Mirhij as saying that he tried through the naturalization law, administrative organization, and looking after security to give the interior ministry a bright image and believes that he has succeeded in this. He added that he is, after all, part of a political movement and said that he will consult his friends before taking a stand.

Hizballah Break Up After Israeli Withdrawl Denied

NC0509143294 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1300 GMT 5 Sep 94

[Text] A statement has been released by the defense minister's office saying that certain newspapers distorted a statement by Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul, claiming that he stressed that Hizballah will dissolve itself after the south has been liberated. The statement said that this report has no connection with what Minister Dallul said, thereby requiring a clarification of the stance adopted by the defense minister, who respects the existing political and democratic life in Lebanon. The statement stressed the need to enhance political plurality aimed at entrenching the social peace process and liberating all national soil.

The statement calls on media organs to verify their reports and to refrain from causing confusion, which serves no purpose.

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Al-Asad Holds Talks With Lebanese Leaders

JN0209184494 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 2 Sep 94

[Text] At 1130 today at al-Rawdah Palace, His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad received Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi, Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri, and Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri. Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi attended the session. His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad and al-Hirawi then held a private meeting. The two sessions were interrupted for a working lunch. The closed meeting was followed by an expanded session that began at 1645.

The talks addressed matters of bilateral, Arab, and regional concern, focusing on the Middle East peace process and developments in the various tracks. The two sides agreed on the importance of keeping up coordination and cooperation between Syria and Lebanon to promote a just and comprehensive peace. The sides familiarized each other with their contacts with other parties. They voiced their concern for seeing the peace process headed to its goal on the basis on which the peace talks were launched. The sides also reviewed bilateral relations and steps to implement the provisions of the brotherhood agreement between Syria and Lebanon. They expressed satisfaction with the steps taken to date.

Joint Delegation Accepted

JN0309133194 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 3 Sep 94

[Thana' al-Imam report from Damascus]

[Text] Damascus said today it was willing to form a joint Syrian-Lebanese delegation [to the peace talks]. Damascus also agreed to let a Lebanese head the delegation. This was stated by the state-run newspaper AL-THAWRAH on the eve of the al-Asad-al-Hirawi summit, held for over eight hours yesterday in the Syrian capital. The official newspaper said the convening of the Syrian-Lebanese summit at this time is significant and has positive dimensions, especially under circumstances of repeated [Israeli] penetrations.

AL-THAWRAH noted Syria's support for Lebanon in the face of pressures, as well as Syria's concern about Lebanon's rights in the same way it is concerned about its rights. Syria adheres to the liberation of south Lebanon, the paper said. The Syrian newspaper said the stands of Syria and Lebanon, which go hand in hand, have foiled Israel's attempts to sow distrust and create differences between the two countries. The unified Syrian-Lebanese position has also enabled Lebanon to thwart Israel's scheme to cause internecine fighting to erupt in Lebanon once again and drag it into a separate treaty.

The Syrian-Lebanese summit, held yesterday in Damascus on the eve of the upcoming visit of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, has emphasized the need to adhere to the foundations of the peace process. Syria and Lebanon also agreed to continue coordination and cooperation to work for a just and comprehensive peace.

Solidarity With Lebanon Stressed

JN0309141794 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1140 GMT 3 Sep 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Nothing indicates that there has been any progress toward the aspired objective in the peace process. The breakthroughs and separate settlements that have taken place do not mean a just and comprehensive peace.

The deceptive statements of Israeli officials on peace do not prove goodwill or an honest desire to realize peace. The separate agreements, more than one year after the signing of one of these agreements, proved to be harmful to the march of just and comprehensive peace, as well as undermining Arab rights and dignity.

The practical implementation of the agreement was made in a manner that entrenches Israeli interests in return for ambiguous promises that enable Israel to deceive and procrastinate. It draws strength from those who relinquish their land and rights in order to obstruct the march of just and comprehensive peace and deals a blow to all formulas of Arab coordination. This provided the Israeli negotiator with the freedom of movement on the other tracks after those who made separate agreement agreed to relinquish their rights and land, using the pretext of preserving national interests to defend their unjustified rush for incomplete settlements and separate agreements.

The Israeli officials' statements on peace have become a deception whose objectives are exposed. These statements contain everything except just and comprehensive peace on the basis of the resolutions of international legitimacy, which go hand in hand with the U.S. initiative based on the land-for-peace principle.

Israeli words have not been coupled with deeds, and what this or that Israeli official says is no more than words for media consumption which collapse in the face of any serious step to advance the peace process.

So far, Israel has not approved the principle of full withdrawal from the Golan, south Lebanon, and the other occupied Arab territories. Even on the tracks in which the principles of peace were violated and distorted, Israel is practicing a form of humiliating blackmail that shows a superiority complex toward the simplest concepts of peace and the arrogance that governs the Israeli behavior—behavior that is not subject to any law, resolution, or ground on which the aspired peace is based.

The Israeli officials' statements, behavior, and positions entrench the commitment of Syria and Lebanon to the principles of a just and comprehensive peace, foremost

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of which is full withdrawal from the Golan, south Lebanon, and the western al-Biqa'.

As the summit meeting of Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Ilyas al- Hirawi showed, Syrian-Lebanese relations, which are consolidating in all fields and entrenching within their historical and pan-Arab framework, hold a strategic dimension in the face of the challenges of the peace battle. Their solidarity and unity of position, objective, and decision will not leave any room for Israel to wager on partial solutions that serve its interests and do not serve the objective of peace. Peace will remains in danger if Israel continues to procrastinate and evade the implementation of the resolutions of international legitimacy at a time when Syria and Lebanon adhere to these resolutions and continue to participate in the peace process on the basis of the UN resolution and in a manner that secures the return of their full lands and rights.

Press Comments on Summit

JN0309095194 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 3 Sep 94

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The United Position," the newspaper TISHRIN writes in its editorial about Syrian-Lebanese relations in light of the talks between President Hafiz al-Asad and Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi. TISHRIN says these talks are based on an important and great fact, namely, that the Friendship, Brotherhood, and Cooperation Treaty between the two countries has reinforced means of consultation and the exchange of viewpoints, and promoted relations between the sons of the one Syrian and Lebanese people.

TISHRIN says: Many issues need coordination and cooperation between the two countries, especially since they fall within the framework of joint efforts, the united stand, and the sound panoramic view of Syria and Lebanon about the linkage between their tracks and the unity of their position on the peace process and the pillars of a just and comprehensive solution. Since the international community, particularly the United States, is now convinced of the impossibility of separation between the Syrian and Lebanese peace tracks, the two countries' firm stand toward the bases of the peace process requires an insistence on complete withdrawal from southern Lebanon and the Golan, on safeguarding the Madrid formula, and on a serious and true implementation of international legitimacy Resolutions 242 and 338 regarding the Golan, and 425 regarding southern Lebanon. TISHRIN adds: When Syria and Lebanon say they will seriously continue their joint efforts to achieve a just peace based on the land-for-peace formula and on full withdrawal in return for full peace, this means Israel's attempts to peddle its partial solutions and separate deals have again clashed with the Syrian-Lebanese cohesion and the inseparability of their negotiations tracks to achieve the aspired peace.

TISHRIN says the Golan and southern Lebanon must return in full to the mother homeland. Israel must not be allowed to go any further in its aggressive policy and actions to evict southern Lebanon's citizens, either on security pretexts or to implement its plans in the occupied part of southern Lebanon, or to subjugate it to occupation and military control. TISHRIN writes: The summit between Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Ilyas al-Hirawi has a special importance under the current circumstances in the region, and in light of the developments in the peace process. This is because coordination, entrenched cooperation, and relations of brotherhood between Syria and Lebanon, necessitate bolstering their role and reinforcing their stand based on a joint viewpoint and stand to confirm the facts of the new approaches and to show faithfulness to the march of a just and comprehensive peace. Concluding, TISHRIN says: The talks between Presidents al-Asad and al-Hirawi have dealt with all issues of interest to both countries in terms of bilateral issues and affairs within the framework of Friendship, Brotherhood, and Cooperation Treaty. They focused particularly on the peace process. The two sides also exchanged opinions and familiarized each other with the contacts with other parties on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks. They also agreed to continue coordination and cooperation and to adhere to the bases of a just and comprehensive peace.

On the same subject, the newspaper AL-THAWRAH stresses the importance of the Syrian-Lebanese summit at this particular time. The paper says: This coordination and inseparability between the two fraternal countries' stands, which are in both sides' interests, have foiled Israel's attempts to cast doubts and create differences among the Arab parties. AL-THAWRAH stresses that this coordination has enabled Lebanon, despite continuous Israeli aggressions, to foil Israel's plan to return Lebanon to internecine fighting and partitions, and to drag it into a separate treaty. Concluding, AL-THAWRAH says: Syria will not accept partial settlements. Neither will it relinquish any Arab right. In fact, it adheres to a just and comprehensive solution that restores all rights and sovereignty in a way that guarantees national and pan- Arab dignity. When it defends Lebanon and the Arabs, Syria defends true peace and its pillars.

In another comment, AL-THAWRAH writes about the Israeli leaders' contradictory stands which conflict with the resolutions of international legitimacy. AL-THAWRAH numerates the Israeli stands obstructing the Middle East peace process, particularly the measures partitioning the Ibrahimi Mosque in the occupied city of Hebron, and Israel's rejection of making the Middle East a zone free of weapons of mass destruction through its refusal to sign the nonproliferation treaty. AL-THAWRAH says: The obstruction of the peace process is not confined to these Israeli stands, but goes far beyond this to the statements made by the Israeli leaders, particularly Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin who, only a few days ago, repeated his remarks on holding a referendum on the issue of Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Golan Heights, although he knows full well that this conflicts with the bases of the peace process and with

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the principles and resolutions of international legitimacy which recognize Syria's full sovereignty over the Golan, taking into consideration that the Golan is an integral part of its national soil. AL-THAWRAH refers to the statements made a few days ago by Israeli Chief of Staff General Baraq in which he stressed that Israel must have a military presence in the Golan even after the achievement of what he called peace. Concluding, AL-THAWRAH says: All this proves to everyone, particularly the peace sponsors, foremost being Washington which plays the role of the full partner and the honest mediator in the peace process, that this process clashes with the Israeli attempts to deviate from the principles on whose basis the Madrid peace conference was launched, to circumvent the UN resolutions and the principles of the international legitimacy which are based on the restoration of Arab rights and the full withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories, and to deal separately with each Arab party in implementation of its policy based on separate solutions.

Paper Rejects Rabin 'Idea,' Says Golan 'Main Concern'

JN0609064394 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0450 GMT 6 Sep 94

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Withdrawal is a Condition for Peace," TISHRIN writes: Although Israeli officials openly admit that Syria is concerned with a strong peace in the region, and that peace without Syrian participation is exposed to failure, they continue to make impossible conditions to reach an agreement with Syria on opening borders and establishing relations before Israel withdraws its forces from the Golan. The newspaper adds: Such an idea, presented by Rabin, exposes a great deal of deception and procrastination because full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan and south Lebanon is a basic condition for peace. All of UN resolutions on which the peace process is based have called for full a withdrawal of Israeli forces to the 4 June 1967 borders.

The newspaper expresses the belief that the occupation of the Arab territories is the crux of the Arab-Israeli conflict, and that no one can bypass this fact as Rabin is trying to do today. Peace will come as a result of the full Israeli withdrawal and not vice-versa, as Tel Aviv's rulers say. The newspaper says: The conflicting statements by Israeli political and military leaders is an exposed attempt to blackmail Syria and the international community. The newspaper emphasizes: Syria does not accept such blackmail and does not give weight to any threat. The Golan has always been a Syrian Arab land and there will be no peace without the full return of the Golan. The Golan will continue to be Syria's main concern on all levels, and the restoration of the Golan will continue to be the main objective.

The newspaper says: Peace means sincere intentions and actions. When Rabin speaks about peace first, then withdrawal, he is denying any sincere intentions and emphasizing that he is not prepared for sincere actions. The newspaper concludes by saying: Syria will continue its declared positions. It will not relinquish an iota of national soil, and will adhere to its demand for full withdrawal from the Golan and south Lebanon, and for a just and comprehensive peace that is based on Security Council resolutions, and that entrenches the authority of international legitimacy and eliminates the Israeli law of the jungle.

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Afghanistan

Military Source Says Attack in Lowgar Repulsed

LD0309181494 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 3 Sep 94

[Text] As many as 40 militia were killed in an unsuccessful attack of the Golboddin-Dostam militia on the Mojahedin positions and on the forces of the Islamic army. An armed forces source, quoting esteemed Mawlawi Monawar, deputy commander of 36th Division of esteemed Mawlawi Mansure, and sources of Harakat-e Enqelab-e Eslami Afghanistan [Islamic Revolutionary Movement of Afghanistan], told a BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY military correspondent that the Golboddin-Dostam militia mounted an unsuccessful attack on the positions of the Islamic army forces in Pol-e Alam, capital of the province, and Baraki District in Lowgar Province at about 0600 yesterday morning, from the direction of Dasht-e Khalilabad. The militia's attack was aborted in its first few hours and they were obliged to retreat. In the course of the offensive [words indistinct], including Malem Mohammad Yusuf, a commander of Golboddin's militia, were killed and more than (?100) others were injured. Similarly, five tanks and seven motor vehicles of the militia were destroyed. The report adds that Golboddin and his advisors selected more individuals from Dostam's militia for the offensive because Dostam's militia have a long history of animosity with the people of Lowgar.

Anti-Rabbani Coalition Claims Control of Lowgar

NC0609061194 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0230 GMT 6 Sep 94

[Text] The faction opposed to Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani has announced that it has taken control of Lowgar Province south of Kabul. According to an IRNA report from Islamabad, a statement by the Council for the Coordination of the Islamic Revolution in Afghanistan, which is a coalition of anti-Rabbani forces, states that 20 supporters of Ahmad Shah Mas'ud were killed and 150 captured in clashes in Lowgar Province in the past two days. A large quantity of weapons was seized including 40 tanks. The important Paktia highway to Kabul, which passes through Lowgar Province, was reopened to heavy traffic after the latest clashes.

Kabul Comes Under Rocket Fire, Shelling

Seven Killed

LD0209172194 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1600 GMT 2 Sep 94

[Text] Last night as well as today, the residential areas of Kabul City were hit by 90 rockets and mortar shells of the Dostam-Golboddin militia. The General Command of Kabul Garrison told the BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY that as a result of the firing of the [word indistinct] rockets, seven of our compatriots were martyred and [word indistinct] were injured. One house was also destroyed and [words indistinct].

Three Killed, 65 Wounded

LD0309164794 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 3 Sep 94

[Text] The Golboddin-Dostam militia fired more than 100 rockets and mortar shells into Kabul City last night and today. The General Command of Kabul Garrison told the BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY that the infamous Golboddin-Dostam militia fired more than 100 rockets, as a result of which three Kabul residents were martyred and 65 others were injured. According to reports from city hospitals, most of the injured were released after receiving treatment. The militia's rocket barrage also caused material losses.

Foreign Ministry Criticizes UN Peace Mission

LD0409182694 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 4 Sep 94

[Statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic State of Afghanistan on 4 September]

[Text] The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, having expressed regret over assertions made by Mr. Mahmud Mestiri, head of the UN special mission, early on in negotiations between the conflicting sides, that the Islamic State of Afghanistan is responsible for the failure of his efforts, as well as regret over the statement issued at the end of the second stage of the UN peace mission, declares:

The Islamic State of Afghanistan has welcomed from the very beginning the efforts of the UN special peace mission toward resolving the issue of Afghanistan, and has expressed its cooperation in this regard and is still committed to it.

The Islamic State hoped that Mr. Mestiri, in order to have a good start and find a political solution, would have initially discussed joint points of view and issues on which there were a greater possibility of reaching an understanding. He should have avoided discussing contentious issues at the first stage of his efforts. Unfortunately, the contentious issue has been discussed at the first stage of his peace efforts.

The Islamic State of Afghanistan, taking into account its previous stance, and based on the fact that the most of the Jehadi groups have not yet officially recognized Junbish-e Meli [National Islamic Movement led by General Dostam] did not agree to have Dostam's representatives in the talks. On the other hand, the participation of Dostam's representatives in the talks would not have solved the current problems of Afghanistan, but would have added more obstacles to the current peace process.

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It is obvious to everyone that because of the existence of Dostam's forces along side the newly established Islamic government, Mr. Hekmatyar resorted to opposition and fighting against the Islamic State.

At present, if the Islamic State of Afghanistan takes part or officially recognizes Junbish in the talks, the possibility of renewed rounds of opposition and hostility by other forces against the Islamic State is not far removed. This issue by itself will undermine the peace process.

The Islamic State of Afghanistan expected that Mr. Mestiri would seek a logical and effective mechanism in order to resolve Afghanistan's issues. Mr. Mestiri should have coordinated his efforts with the resolutions passed by the Herat shura, and made an effort to encourage other Jehadi groups to take part in the work of the aforementioned commission. Specially after esteemed Mawlawi Mohammad Nabi Mohammadi, who is the leader of a neutral group in the present conflict and is supported by the majority of the groups, was chosen as head of the commission.

The Afghani people's interpretation of the failure of Mr. Mestiri's recent efforts in Islamabad will be that he has not been given realistic advice in resolving the current issues of our country. It will be assumed that the decision to discuss the issue of Dostam at the first stage of peace efforts was a deliberate attempt to force the official recognition of Dostam's representative to the talks, Junbish-e Meli, or, failing this, to blame the Islamic State of Afghanistan for the breakdown of the talks.

It is surprising that Mr. Mestiri in the second stage of his efforts, except for discussing the issue of holding a session with the participation of the representatives of groups and formations, did not discuss any other proposal officially or unofficially. Later, despite being fully aware of the stance taken by the Islamic State of Afghanistan and Herat shura on not taking part in a session in which a representative of Junbish attended, he extended an official invitation to such a session.

From the viewpoint of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, a suspension of one month or more in the peace efforts by Mr. Mestiri is not a favorable action. The Ministry hopes that he will reconsider his decision to conclude the second stage of his efforts and will coordinate his honest activities with the ongoing peace efforts inside Afghanistan, by continuing the current efforts.

Hekmatyar Party Reportedly Accepts UN Plan

LD0109162294 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 1 Sep 94

[Text] Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party] has announced that that party and other members of the anti-Borhanoddin Rabbani Coordination Council accept the UN proposed plan for the settlement of the Afghan crisis. According to the Central News Unit, a spokesman for Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami announced the above and added: Under the UN proposal, the representatives of 10 Afghan groups and parties will be involved. The crisis will be resolved in stages through their negotiations and agreements.

Meanwhile, the forces opposing Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani have threatened to target the Afghan Government's passenger aircraft starting tomorrow because they are being used for military purposes.

Loya Jerga Delegates To Meet UN Envoy

LD0109210494 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 1 Sep 94

[Text] A delegation of the members of the commission for the convening of the Islamic Loya Jerga left today for Pakistan to meet with Mr. Mahmoud Mestiri, special envoy of the UN secretary general.

The delegation, headed by Sayyed Nurollah Emad, minister of agriculture and representative of Jami'at-e Eslami [Islamic Society], is due to meet with representatives of jehadi organizations for talks about their participation in the commission for the convening of the Islamic Loya Jerga of Afghanistan, the work of which goes ahead right now in Kabul. Similarly the delegation will meet with Mahmoud Mestiri, and will brief him on the convening of the Islamic Loya Jerga which is due to meet in the month of Aqrab [starting 23 October] in Kabul.

Ariana Denies Airliners Used by Military

LD0109184794 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 1 Sep 94

[Text] In a statement today Ariana Afghan Airlines rejected the claim that their airplanes are being used for military purposes. Last night an item was broadcast by the BBC about a statement of the so-called Coordination Council in which it was said that Ariana company transported weapons and military ammunition in its airplanes, and, therefore, they would be attacked on the ground and in the air beginning 11 Sonbola 1373 [2 September 1994] by the Golboddin-Dostam militia.

This allegation was considered completely unfounded by the statement of Ariana Afghan Airlines Company. It added: Ariana has always adhered to international norms and regulations. As a national service institution and in line with the norms and standards of IATA, the International Air Transport Association, and of the International Civil Aviation Organization, Ariana Afghan Airlines carry only civilian passengers, commercial goods, goods of primary necessity, medicines, and Afghan pilgrims on the basis of an internationally registered flight schedule. It has never embarked on the transport of weapons and other military supplies in contravention of international civil regulations and flight security norms, and will not do so in the future as well.

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The statement of Ariana Airlines Company also said that it rejects any threat of use and actual use of weapons against civilian airplanes and installations in keeping with the values of the international civil aviation convention signed in Chicago in 1944 and international protocols signed in Tokyo, The Hague, and Montreal.

Similarly, Ariana airplanes land in and fly from civilian international airports, are supervised by air traffic officials, and the transport of weapons and military supplies is thus prevented.

At the end of its statement, Ariana Afghan Airlines Company asked for the security of their airplanes to be ensured, that Ariana be allowed to serve the compatriots, and for it to be able to carry out its national and international tasks in the service of the people confidently and safely.

Iran

President Says Khamene'i's Guidelines Must Be Obeyed

LD0209105094 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 2 Sep 94

[Text] In his Tehran Friday prayer sermons today, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressed the need for the government to obey fully all the points raised in the recent speech of the honorable leader, and described the achievements of the first 5-year plan and the current situation within the country. Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani spoke of the recent guidelines of the leader and said: His orders regarding adequate services to the people and his words about the Government exceeding the plan were spoken through reliance on the truth.

The president pointed to the speech by the honorable leader, in which he stressed the need to outline the activities of the Government, and thanked the media, especially the Voice and Vision, which broadcast worthy programs to raise the awareness of the people during Government Week, and added: In spite of this, there are many other pieces of untold information which should be divulged, since the people's ignorance provides ground for propaganda by the enemies of the Islamic revolution. This is a great responsibility for the media.

The president described the propaganda policies of the world's media aimed at creating a spirit of hopelessness among the Iranian people with regard to the achievements of the Islamic revolution. He said: The Islamic system, as before, relies on the people in confronting the enemies of Islam, and will continue to do so, thus proving the strength of Islam more than ever before.

[Begin Hashemi-Rafsanjani recording] So far we have proven our pride and honor. We should not allow this to be taken away from us easily. Due to their efforts, vigilance, and presence on the scene, our people have proven that in the present century Islam could be the basis for the proper management and development of human societies. This is not a mere claim, and figures and statistics indicate this.

It was this same Islam which, during the phase of struggle, managed to topple and bury that tyrannical monarchy regime which was armed to the teeth. Also, it was this very same Islam which emerged triumphant from an eight-year war, which has no parallel in history, against the most contemptuous foreign enemies. It was this very people which was able to go through the era of reconstruction—which was really a serious problem as the war caused $1 trillion of worth of damage—and the period of economic embargo in such a desirable manner. We have displayed the manifestations of this success during the Government Week. [end recording]

The president then compared the country's present situation with that before the implementation of the first 5-year plan. He stressed: The changes made are very deep, so that no one would have imagined so much progress in some areas, such as higher education. He added: Today, the Islamic system has no particular problems in infrastructural issues, while we had problems in every area five years ago.

The president said the speed of reconstruction in towns and villages destroyed in the imposed war has taken world arrogance by surprise. He said: The reconstruction of war-stricken areas is progressing at a good rate.

The president referred to the fact that most of the materials required by factories are now produced domestically. He said: Not a day goes by without another string of dependence on the outside world being cut. The situation is such that even if access to the country were closed now, no particular problems would arise. That fact drives the thought of imposing economic sanctions on Iran out of the arrogance's mind.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani referred to the fact that the falsehood of Western media propaganda about the Buenos Aires incident has been proven. He said: America and the Zionist regime had written the script in such a way that they could use it to act against us for years. However, that conspiracy was foiled on the spot thanks to the stability of the Islamic system and they were disgraced. Argentina's program last night, concerning the Islamic Republic of Iran, shows that country's retreat from its previous stance.

Referring to the consumer rights protection bill, the president said: In the first plan the emphasis was on production. However, with the increase in production in the second plan, we shall pay attention to fair distribution and we will reform the distribution system. The president stressed: In the second plan we will solve the few existing problems and further strengthen the economic independence of the system through reliance on you, the people.

The president devoted his first sermon today to continuing the debate on social justice, and considered as a

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kind of injustice the fact that the different strata and members of society have an unequal share in educational facilities. Stating that planning is the basis for alleviating such a discrimination, he said: Efforts to make public education available to all is the most fundamental axis for this planning, and investment in this area is so vital that some of its initial negative consequences must be endured.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani considers the materialization of social justice as a long-term program, the full and main results of which may appear only after many years.

The president then referred to the steps taken by the literacy movement toward obliterating illiteracy, and said: The literacy rate has risen to 75 percent. However, we expect the illiterate people to receive these programs with more enthusiasm. He added: Some 96 percent of children of school age are now covered by the public education system, and we hope that by removing certain obstacles, some of which are rooted in unacceptable viewpoints, we may be able to bring all our children into the education system.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani also spoke about the development of technical schools and colleges, and said that such a development is an important step toward enhancing the practical aspects of education.

The president then mentioned some statistics on the number of university students in different parts of the country, and said that the development of higher education establishments in different areas, including the deprived areas, is another step which has brought about a kind of equilibrium in the number of students from the center and the indigenous areas. This step also has a considerably positive impact on raising the people's level of culture and understanding.

The president added: We will continue the process of making education, in its different forms, available to all, in order to open the way for the off-spring of all the nation's strata to participate in determining the destiny of their country, and to be able to place the flourishment of talents and capabilities on a fair and just basis.

Terms Argentine Letter 'Apology'

LD0209122094 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 2 Sep 94

[Second Friday prayers sermon given by Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani in Tehran on 2 September—recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The Argentine affair was a good experience for us. They [the West and Israel] did a great deal of planning to create a problem for us on the international stage. However, look what happened at the end through the strength of our stands, through what we said, and through our true righteousness. Their real plan was to create something which they would be able to use for many years to weaken and condemn Iran on the international stage.

This event helps us to understand many things. The first thing is that they were so empty-handed that they had to rely totally on remarks made by a fraudulent convict who had committed theft here and who had fled abroad in order to escape justice, while at the same time he introduced himself as a former deputy minister in Iran. With all their claims to possessing information and intelligence, they were not able to understand that they should have first asked whether the man was really a state official, a diplomat, or a deputy minister. It was revealed only later that he was a thief with a criminal record.

The affair took such a course that last night the Argentine Government and the Foreign Ministry wrote an official letter of apology to us. Of course, the letter does not mention the word apology, but when the Foreign Ministry—which only a few weeks ago accused us of perpetrating a bomb explosion—writes a letter seeking reconciliation...[Rafsanjani pauses] Last night, when I saw their letter, I was surprised at how quickly a government can retreat from its earlier position. Of course, this was in itself a courageous act, since the Americans and the Israelis were insistent that no retreat should take place.

All of this brought disgrace and shame on the United States and Israel. Now, in order to take the poison out of it all, a certain foreign radio station has said that they did not know whether to describe the letter as conciliatory or demanding. This is despite the fact that various parts of the letter show that it can be considered an apology.

Under the conditions which you have seen, where they set out to wage such an onslaught in order to fill the world with a hue and cry, they suddenly decided to retreat in such a shameful way. This is because our position here is strong. We are not to be moved by any slight breeze which might blow every now and then. [passage omitted]

Editorial Terms U.S. Policies 'Travesty of Justice'

NC0309060694 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 29 Aug 94 p 2

[Editorial: "Justice for Whom?"]

[Text] Justice in the U.S. is supposed to be "for all" but these days with the American refusal to accept the Cuban wave of refugees, with their unfair propaganda campaign against the Islamic Republic of Iran, and with their opportunistic approach in every crisis that occurs in the world, it seems that justice is just for the arrogant ruling class that rules the U.S. and tries hard to extend its sphere of influence to the remotest corners of the world.

Justice American style is a mockery, a travesty of justice itself. In the name of justice, the U.S. forces were sent to

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Vietnam. They claimed that they wanted to stop the Communist oppression. But thousands of destroyed villages later showed the Vietnamese that the American style of justice was no better, if not worse.

The freedom and justice which the U.S. ideologists want is the freedom and justice which will benefit the United States and its capitalistic interests.

For those uninitiated to the grim U.S. record on upholding justice and freedom, it would suffice to say that every popular and truly democratic government that has come to power anywhere in the world in the past four decades has had to deal with the nuisance of the American intervention. Allende in Chile and many other popular governments deposed through CIA machinations are the best examples of independent politicians who became victims of American-style democracy.

Notwithstanding the fake nature of American ideology, some governments in the world are just too naive to realize the insincerity of the American appeal to such noble ideals as freedom and justice. It is always easy to fight darkness and oppression but it is not always easy to recognize oppression packaged in grand ideas such as freedom, justice and equality.

One manifestation of such gullible attitude towards the American ideology is the conduct shown by Argentinian officials in charging Iran with the bombing of the Jewish center in Buenos Aires on July 18. Forty days have passed since the explosion which killed and injured scores of people in Buenos Aires and the Argentinean officials have yet to provide the evidence to implicate Iran.

It is very sad that Argentina should play into the hands of the U.S. and the Zionist regime. The commonalities between the two countries are plenty. Most Argentinian writers and intellectuals are extremely fond of the Persian culture. Borges, the quintessential Argentinean writer, loved Iranian culture and most of his works are translated into Persian. Carlos Menem, the president of Argentina, is as much opposed to the upcoming Cairo population conference as Iranians are—he has called on all Latin American countries to follow the Vatican line, rather than the line proposed by the population conference. Despite the fact that Iran and Argentina are geographically remote, culturally the similarities abound.

Due to the naivete of some Argentine officials the relation between two friendly nations has gone sour. Had the Argentine officials realized that the American ideology is a hoax and that the Americans and the Zionists would spit on their own ideals if they saw it convenient, and if it served their own interests, then they would not have acted as a sidekick in a cheap vaudeville act in which the Americans and the Zionists are the master and the Argentineans the slave.

Official Discusses 'Poised Hammer' Moves

NC0209124694 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 29 Aug 94 pp 1-2

[Report by Shahrad Asna-'Ashri]

[Text] The transfer of the Poised Hammer force from Turkey to northern Iraq, which recently gathered momentum, will have unforeseeable repercussions for the countries of the region.

'Ali Khorram, the senior adviser at the Foreign Ministry and head of the Directorate for Strategic Studies, went on: The Poised Hammer force stationed at the Incirlik Airbase in south Turkey occasionally reduces or augments its number; this is nothing new and has resulted in no crisis.

He added: We want to support Turkey so that it can get rid of the Poised Hammer force. But if we try to take the initiative and act in a preemptive manner the United States will step up its pressure on Turkey and then the consequences of such an action will gradually transpire.

Stating that the Poised Hammer force can be a source of danger for the region, the head of the Directorate for Strategic Studies stressed: If Turkey wants to raise this issue we will act in unison with it.

A source close to the Kurds in north Iraq recently announced that some of the installations of the allied forces stationed at Incirlik in south Turkey are to be transferred to Iraqi Kurdistan. This source states that the installations will be deployed in the central and western areas of Iraqi Kurdistan near Irbil and Shandri in the al-Sulaymaniyah Province.

West 'Behind' Start of Moroccan-Israeli Relations

LD0309083394 Tehran IRNA in English 0810 GMT 3 Sep 94

[Text] Tehran, Sep. 3, IRNA—A morning English daily here Saturday [3 September] commented on the establishment of liaison offices by Morocco and Israel as a first step towards establishing full diplomatic relations and said that the main ingredient for accomplishing genuine peace is altogether absent, and that is the will of the people.

The 'TEHRAN TIMES' said in its editorial said that the West, particularly the United States, was behind such measures in the Middle East.

Quoting a senior official of the Zionist regime who said "we should expect the same with Tunisia in the coming weeks," the paper said the West is attempting to impose a rule in this part of the world which would realize the U.S. objective of being the only superpower.

The West led by the U.S. is behaving in the Middle East and Africa as it behaved in former Eastern Europe, "the difference being that, in Eastern Europe the West overthrew the regimes in the name of democracy and human

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rights, while, in the Middle East and Africa, they are preserving their puppet rulers," it said. The paper argued that the U.S. desired to keep Israel's borders safe...because it wanted to expand its borders at every opportunity. The Jericho Autonomy Plan, the accord signed with Jordan last July and now Morocco and Tunisia are devised with this end in mind, it added.

These and other accords which are on the drawingboards will not be worth the paper on which they are written.

Referring to the fact that the people will not support the Zionist regime or arrogant powers, the paper said that the sooner the puppet rulers and arrogant powers realize this, the better.

Tehran To Oppose 'Moral Corruption' in ICPD Agenda

LD0309104294 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 3 Sep 94

[Text] The Islamic Republic of Iran's delegation at the International Conference on Population and Development [ICPD] stresses the need for the propagation of religious values and spirituality and is trying to move the conference towards adopting a proper and principled [osuli] stance.

The head of the Islamic Republic of Iran's delegation at the ICPD, Mr Taskhiri, in a news conference stressed the need for women's active role in creating a sound social atmosphere in the world and called on Western countries to restrain from imposing any Western values and ideas on the ICPD in Cairo.

He considered the uncontrolled growth and lack of proper use of natural resources and their unfair distribution to be some of the main problems of mankind and said: At this conference the Islamic Republic of Iran will oppose any plan that propagates moral corruption and will remove it from the conference agenda with the cooperation of other states.

Islamic Countries Urged To Attend

LD0309120894 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0958 GMT 3 Sep 94

[Excerpts] Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Mohammad 'Ali Taskhiri, head of the Iranian delegation to the International Conference on Population and Development [ICPD], in an interview this morning called on all Islamic countries to take part in this conference. In the interview, he said: We do not agree with boycotting the conference. We want to be present at the conference. We call on Islamic countries to carry out their historic duty and add spirituality and ethical and religious principles to the proposed resolution. [passage omitted]

Preventing uncontrolled population growth, the role of women in the sociopolitical structure of society, preventing discrimination between boys and girls, rejecting forced marriages, and supporting the elderly are among the positive points of the proposed final resolution of the Cairo conference. Undoubtedly however, the text of the proposed conference resolution also contains negative points too which should be followed up carefully through debate and the active presence of the countries' representatives. The presence of representatives from Islamic countries will be more effective in adding useful articles in addition to, or instead of, the disputed sections.

It should be recalled that when the UN Charter on Human Rights was formulated at the end of the Second World War, only a handful of the Islamic countries were present among the 50 countries taking part. This left certain vague points which even to this date are causing debate.

Since some of the articles of the proposed Cairo conference resolution—because of their vagueness—are even more debatable, the countries' representatives, especially those of the Islamic countries, should look upon those articles with a critical eye and with full awareness. Certainly, the imposition of certain improper ideas on the spirit of the resolution can be prevented by strengthening spiritual and moral values.

Editorial Urges Muslims To Foil U.S. Goals at ICPD

LD0409133594 Tehran IRNA in English 0924 GMT 4 Sep 94

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 4, IRNA—A morning daily Sunday [4 September] commented on the forthcoming Cairo conference on population and recommended Muslim countries and followers of divine religions to do their best to foil Washington's "inhuman and irreligious" objectives behind the confab. In its editorial 'JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI' said that so far some Islamic countries have boycotted the conference in protest to certain weak points included in its draft resolution. The paper stressed that either the weak points should be removed from the agenda of the conference or the Islamic countries and those who believe in divine laws, while powerfully attending the gathering, should prevent approving the draft resolution. If Islamic countries take part in the conference powerfully and adopt a unifed stance on the basis of Islamic principles, no doubt the U.S. will have no chance for the materialization of its objectives, said the article.

Pointing to the role Egypt has played in connection with the conference, the daily wrote that there was evidence indicating that Cairo would try to act as a U.S. broker in the conference. Egypt will first try to prevent opposition of the Islamic countries and then it will exert utmost efforts to attract the positive attention of those countries towards Washington's positions.

However, the editorial added, the main objective of the U.S. behind spread of corruption and the issue of extramarital relations is to check population growth in the world of Islam. The U.S., the staunch enemy of Islam,

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attempts to control Muslim population and by spreading corruption among the youth tries to turn the young intellectuals of the Islamic society into idles who only think of entertaining themselves.

"If we admit that the U.S. and its flunkeys are following such an objective at the Cairo conference, therefore, it is the duty of all Muslim countries and advocates of divine religions to enter the scene with all their might to thwart inhuman and irreligious objectives of the U.S.," the daily concluded.

Commentary: ICPD 'Pretext' for Interference

NC0609071494 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 6 Sep 94

[Commentary by the News Research and Commentaries Group]

[Text] The International Conference on Population and Development [ICPD] is being inaugurated in Cairo today with the participation of the representatives of 150 countries. The conference will last 10 days, discussing population control and adopting various decisions. In the past few days many countries, especially the Islamic countries, have adopted a stance against the conference while some have even boycotted it.

According to political analysts, while population control is an accepted norm in most countries, the issue of combating an increase as incorporated in the agenda of the Cairo session has created a dichotomy among these countries. On this agenda, which was formulated mainly by Western countries, the freedom to indulge in sexual relations, abort fetuses, and practice homosexuality are being touted as the most important means to prevent early marriages and ensure birth control.

The Islamic countries and the Vatican vehemently reject this viewpoint. The Third World countries and the Islamic countries in particular consider the inclusion of these methods in the Cairo session's agenda as a means to spread the decadent Western culture that has generated many social crises in the West. These include dismembering the family unit and giving birth to millions of illegitimate children in the West, embroiling Western societies in psychological and moral crises and afflicting them with various other scourges such as AIDS

What objecting countries want to know is: When population control is possible based on the culture of the various societies, through education and without the social consequences of the unbridled licentiousness of the West, why should Western countries insist on imposing their degenerate culture on other countries?

Another question that arises is: Since the decisions that will be made at the Cairo session bind no country, why are the Islamic countries and the Vatican so vehemently opposed to them? According to political analysts, particular social and cultural factors are the main reasons for the actions of the West, introducing its own culture at the Cairo session, and for the opposition by the Vatican, Islamic countries, the PRC, and some other countries.

Most countries fear that the approval of Western proposals for population control at the Cairo session will give the West another pretext—based on cultural issues—to interfere in the political affairs of other countries. This concern stems from the numerous statements, conventions, and covenants—most of which are not mandatory—being used by the West to impose its own vantage point on other countries. By adopting a political orientation, it has interfered in others' internal affairs.

Velayati Notes Topics for Islamabad ICO Meeting

LD0609085194 Tehran IRNA in English 0810 GMT 6 Sep 94

[Text] Tehran, Sept 6, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati said here Monday that Iran considers Bosnian, Kashmiri and Palestinian issues significant to the Islamic world.

In an interview with English daily 'TEHRAN TIMES' which was published Tuesday, Velayati added that the present situation in Bosnia will be discussed in Islamabad with emphasis on lifting the arms embargo on Bosnia.

The annual meeting of foreign ministers of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) [Islamic Conference Organization, ICO] in Islamabad will be inaugurated by Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto on Wednesday.

"Not only the Islamic world, but also many other countries have reached the conclusion that the Bosnian embargo must be lifted", the paper quoted the minister as saying.

Al-Khalil (?mosque) and the Zionist plot to divide it will be one of the main issues to be discussed in the conference, the foreign minister announced.

He denied an earlier report that the foreign ministers of Iran, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia will discuss the deteriorating situation in Afghanistan, the daily underlined.

Velayati stressed that Iran is always ready to talk on the Afghan issue but for the time being it is not on the agenda.

Pakistan

President Denies Country Posesses Nuclear Weapons

BK0409091094 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 4 Sep 94

[Text] President Sardar Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari has said that Pakistan is a peaceful country and it

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supports the cause of peace in the world, especially in the region. He was speaking at the ground-breaking ceremony of the Mithawan pilot project in Chotiwala near Dera Ghazi Khan ysterday. The president reiterated that Pakistan neither possesses any nuclear weapons, nor does it intend to make such a device. He said our nuclear program is only meant for peaceful purposes.

The president said over 2,000 hill-currents have been identified in various parts of Dera Gazi Khan, Dera Ismail Khan, Dadu, Larkana, and Balochistan Province which will be developed to their full utilization. The water from these hill-currents will be fully utilized for drinking and irrigation purposes. Sardar Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari thanked the Japanese Government for its assistance to Pakistan in undertaking projects for economic and social development. He expressed the hope that Japan will continue to support Pakistan in its program for socioeconomic development.

The Mithawan pilot project will be completed in two phases at a cost of 350 million rupees by the end of next year. The president also inaugurated an 11-kilovolt feeder project under which a 100-km transmission line will be constructed to provide electricity to more than 35 villages in Dera Gazi Khan. The project will cost 15 million rupees.

Sharif: Country Has 'Nuclear Device'

BK0309101694 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 3 Sep 94 p 1

[Text] Abbottabad—"Pakistan does possess a nuclear device and it is the question of survival for us. We have broken the begging bowl and as a proud nation we can survive without foreign aid".

This was stated by Nawaz Sharif while addressing a public meeting at Jinnah Bagh here Friday [2 September] afternoon.

The former prime minister said "only anti-state forces are against his statement about the atom bomb but on the other hand all the patriotic people are behind his decision of informing the public about the possession of nuclear bomb. He said that those who were crying over the suspension of foreign aid were not the well wishers of the country and they could not see Pakistan as a self-reliant country.

He criticised the government for what he described the apologetic attitude towards the reality in this connection and added that government of Benazir Bhutto was ready to compromise the nuclear issue with US but he said that PML (N) [Pakistan Muslim League] would foil any such move.

Nawaz Sharif said that as a result of conspiracy his government was removed and election's result were manoeuvered in a way that on polling day till 2:am PML (N) was winning but all of a sudden everything was changed into PPP's [Pakistan People's Party] favour Despite all this PPP could only manage to get only 13 seats more than that of PML (N), he said.

To substantiate his claim the PML chief said "that is why inspite of geting less votes the PPP is in power".

He also criticised the policies of prime minister, saying that all the developmental projects of his government were disbanded including the contract of Abbottabad-Barian Road. Nawaz also criticised the president for his alleged involvement in the Mehran bank scandal. He said that tehrik-i-nijat [movement for ouster of Government] would be continued till the ouster of this 'corrupt' government. He said that the days of the PPP government were numbered and people would soon hear good news.

He also criticised the chief of Jamaat-i-Islami. Qazi Hussain Ahmed, who according to Nawaz was not sincere with Pakistan.

It is interesting to note that except the renewal of his Nelabat statement all his speech was repetition of his different speeches at different times. Nothing new was said and some of the participants of the meeting were overheard saying they were disappointed by the speech of the leader of the opposition as according to one. They came to listen to some new stuff from Nawaz Sharif. More or less, it was the same speech he delivered at Mardan the other day. Another interesting point is that some of the journalists who travelled with Nawaz Sharif in his helicopter already had the speech which the leader of the opposition was going to deliver.

Earlier the ANP [Awami National Party] leader Ghulam Ahmed Bilour in his speech said fighting against oppressors was our duty and we would fight against tyranny till death. He also told the crowd that it was against the Pukhloon norms to defy promise and ANP would fully participate in 'tehrik-i-nijat'.

For the first time in a public meeting Gohar Ayub used derogatory remarks against the government. Sheikh Rashid also used abusive language against the prime minister which has become the hallmark of his character.

Sabir Shah criticised the local administration and called bad names to the commissioner Hazara division.

Former provincial minister, Ali Afzal Jadoon, Sardar Mehtab Abbasi, MNA [Member of National Asembly], Sardar Yonsaf MNA and Senator Prof. Sajid Mir also addressed the meeting.

'Anti-Islamic' Clauses To Be Opposed at ICPD

BK0409092394 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 4 Sep 94

[Text] Pakistan will strongly oppose the anti-Islamic clauses in final draft of the international conference on population and development program of action in Cairo and will ensure that the recommendations conform to the Islamic values and teachings of the holy Koran. This

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was reiterated by the special assistant to the prime minister, Begum Shahnaz Wazir Ali, at a briefing in Islamabad today. She categorically stated that a very strong statement will be made by the prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, in the conference rejecting in totality all those documents which are opposed to Islam.

Sri Lanka

Tamil Parties Welcome Government's Peace Moves

BK0209154594 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 2 Sep 94

[Text] Sri Lanka's minority Tamil parties urged separatist rebels to reciprocate the new Colombo government's peace gesture and open a political dialogue to end the guerrilla war. The government's partial lifting of the four-year-old economic blockade on Tamil Tiger guerrillas [words indistinct] in northern Sri Lanka on Wednesday [31 August] was welcomed by [words indistinct] as a first step toward ending the process of bloodshed. The initiative by Prime Minister Chandrika Bandaranaike-Kumaratunga is timely and augurs well for the launching of the new [word indistinct] peace initiative, [words indistinct] Revolutionary Liberation Front said. The EPRLF [Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front] which is opposed to the dominant Tamil militant group—the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam [LTTE]—have called on all other progovernment armed groups to stop levying taxes on merchandise taken to north of Sri Lanka. They also called on the LTTE to reciprocate the government's gesture by lifting all restrictions on the movement of people from the northern Jaffna Peninsula. Let not this initiative of the Kumaratunga government go vain, the EPRLF said in a statement, adding that the Tigers should open a safe passage for civilians traveling between the Jaffna Peninsula and the mainland.

Analysts believe Ms. Kumuratunga's election following the August 16 parliamentary vote could be a window of opportunity to resolve the conflict which has claimed some 30,000 lives since 1972. The premier urged all armed groups to desist from extorting money from truckers transporting essential commodities to Tamil region. Prime Minister Kumaratunga announced that only items that could be used in manufacture of bombs and armaments will not be allowed into the north. We are doing all this to rebuild the trust and confidence between the government and the Tamil people of Jaffna, she said. The prime minister is to meet field commanders from the frontier region to assess the ground situation.

The Eelam People's Democratic Party [EPDP] welcomed Ms. Kumaratunga's move and called for a greater involvement of Tamils in the bureaucracy. We believe this beginning will create confidence among the Tamil speaking people who desire a political solution and among the forces urging a political solution, EPDP leader (Douglas Davananda) said in a statement. The EPDP has nine members in the 225-member parliament. Two other pro-government Tamil parties who have eight seats between them also welcomed the prime minister's peace move.

There is no immediate reaction from the Tigers to Colombo's peace overture. [passage indistinct]

LTTE 'Ready for Cease-Fire'

BK0409122394 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 4 Sep 94

[Text] Tamil separatist guerrilla leader, Velupillai Prabhakaran, said yesterday that he was ready for a cease-fire and unconditional talks with the new Sri Lankan Government. He said in a statement read by a spokesman in Jaffna to mark the release [of 10 policemen] that they wish to reiterate that they are prepared for the cease-fire and unconditional peace talks. Prabhakaran said that the detainees were freed in response to Prime Minister Chandrika Bandaranaike-Kumaratunga's partial lifting this week of the four-year economic blockade in the north. The statement was read to reporters by Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam spokesman, Anton Balasingham, as the prisoners were handed over to the International Committee of the Red Cross. The hostages are among 28 policemen and 21 soldiers held captive, some for more than four years, by the LTTE in Jaffna were flown to Colombo yesterday. In June, the 49 captives told a REUTER correspondent that they would fast to death if they were not released this year. Prabhakaran welcomed [word indistinct] government's decision to lift the ban on 28 of the 76 prescribed items and said the rebels were willing to cooperate with the new government in all its efforts to create congenial conditions of peace and normalcy which are (?conducive) for the conduct of peace negotiations, the guerrilla leader said.

The 28 items include medicines, soap, biscuits, kerosene, radio, and radio equipment, coconut oil, chocolates, generators, and bicycles. We earnestly believe that our decision to release a group of the detainees will be viewed as a reciprocal gesture of goodwill and understanding, Prabhakaran said. We hope the new government will soon lift the economic embargo totally paving the way for the restoration of normalcy in Tamil areas. The rebel response to the government's offer was widely welcomed by Tamil minority parties in Colombo. These are confidence building measures toward negotiations for a political settlement said the Tamil United Liberation Front.

The 10 policemen who were released by the LTTE in Jaffna arrived in Colombo yesterday. The LTTE released these policemen as a gesture of goodwill in response to the government's withdrawal of 28 items which were banned from being transported into Jaffna. After being received warmly at the airport, they were immediately taken to the police hospital in Colombo.

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Earlier, the released police personnel were received warmly by the deputy minister of defense, Colonel Anuruddha Ratwatte, at the Palaly Airport. Addressing the gathering, the minister said that this was the result of the government's peace program to stop the war in the north and east.

Our special correspondent who visited the north says that the people of Jaffna welcomed the government's proposal for a negotiated settlement of the long-standing problems.

Nationwide State of Emergency Ends

BK0509034994 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 5 Sep 94

[Text] The newly elected government in Sri Lanka has ended the nationwide the state of emergency which was in force for the last 20 years. However, the emergency is expected to be retained in the north and east of the island where there has been a long rebellion by the separatists of the Tamil Tiger [LTTE—Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] movement. Reports say that the state of emergency has been used to counter the activities of the Tamil Tigers. Amnesty International says that last year in Colombo alone, 22,000 people, mainly young Tamil males, were arrested under emergency regulations.

Meanwhile, electricity supply to the war-torn Jaffna Peninsula is to be restored after four years. Talking to newsmen at Taranikulam camp in Batticaloa District yesterday, the deputy defense minister, Mr. Anuruddha Ratwatte, said the TV station of the Rupavahini and the radio station of SLBC [Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation] at Palaly will be reactivated. Mr. Ratwatte said the government invites foreign aid for improving infrastructure facilities in the north, including irrigation, ports, and highways. Electricity and rail link to the peninsula and Mannar was snapped following the Eelam war-II declared by the LTTE four years ago.

Plot To Kill New Prime Minister Revealed

BK0209121294 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 2 Sep 94

[Text] The CID [Criminal Investigation Department] investigating a plot to kill Prime Minister Chandrika Bandaranaike- Kumaratunga when she was paying homage to the Dalada Maligawa [Buddhist shrine], Kandy on Saturday [August 27] has found that the plan was for the assassin to pose as a photographer. The suspected assassin later confessed that he was taken to a house in Kandy on Friday and provided with a camera fitted with a bomb, police sources said. He made a confession during which he said he was asked to make his way closer to the prime minister and shoot the camera. The explosive device would then explode blowing the prime minister to pieces, the investigator said. Top officials said the attempt of killing Prime Minister Kumaratunga was a part of a bigger plot to overthrow the newly elected government. A special CID team searched the residences of (?several) powerful politicians in the Central Province on Wednesday night to pursue vital links. Meanwhile, several other political heavyweights have been placed under CID surveillance, official sources said. A special CID team has already recorded statements from over 50 persons in (Nawala), (Kagalle), and Kandy.

President Hospitalized With High Blood Pressure

BK0509150294 Hong Kong AFP in English 1436 GMT 5 Sep 94

[Text] Colombo, Sept 5 (AFP)—Sri Lanka President Dingiri Banda Wijetunga was admitted to a hospital Monday [5 September] after suffering from high blood pressure, party and hospital sources said.

Wijetunga, 78, was undergoing a series of medical checks at the privately-run Nawaloka hospital, a hospital source told AFP.

His press officer Anthony Fernando said Wijetunga was unable to address legislators of his United National Party (UNP), which lost last month's parliamentary elections, because he was feeling ill from Monday morning.

Although the UNP was voted out of power, Wijetunga could remain as president till his term ends in January 1995.

The UNP has already nominated him as their candidate for the presidential election due in November.

Wijetunga was due to discuss with his MP's who are now in the opposition the extension of a state of emergency in the island's embattled northern and eastern regions.

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